



**'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened'  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday 3 July 2011**



## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday 2011 Liturgy Liturgy Proceedings

### Welcome

*Today is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. We acknowledge the deeply religious and spiritual traditions of our ancestors with respect. We have chosen the theme Justice and Peace for all for this year's resources. It is also the beginning of a week of celebrations throughout the nation where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people celebrate their spirituality, identity, culture and survival. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday is the start of National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee or NAIDOC week where we are all welcomed and encouraged to join in the activities and celebrations.*

#### **A Welcome to Country by a local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Elder**

#### **ALTERNATE Acknowledgement of Country by Celebrant in the Introductory Rite.**

#### **Entrance Processional:**

*May be accompanied by a Didgeridoo*

#### **Entrance Hymn: "All the Earth" (AOV 183)**

#### **ALTERNATE Entrance Hymn:**

*"All the Ends of the Earth" (AOV 76)*

### Penitential Rite

**For Indigenous Congregations A Rite of Water Blessing:** *It is customary in some areas, when Aboriginal people gather for important ceremonies to use water. Water containers can be a large shell or coolamon and a small branch from an appropriate native tree can be used to sprinkle the water. Please collaborate with your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander group to ensure this rite of water blessing is appropriate. Alternatively water can be used according to the rite of sprinkling in the Roman Missal.*

**ALTERNATE A Rite of Smoking:** *traditionally celebrated by Aboriginal people. Since the beginning of time our ancestors used to smoke away evil spirits and receive the good spirit. We acknowledge Aboriginal Elders to lead Smoking Ceremony. Today we share with you one of the oldest living ceremonies, to remove our sins and ask for forgiveness. We invite you now to share our smoking ceremony like our ancestors have done for thousands of years.*

#### **Non-Indigenous Congregations Reader:**

*Water to Aboriginal people is always a sign of God's peace and fulfillment in everything that is good; the promise of food, of harmony with ourselves, and the bush around us.*

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penitential rite  
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previous page ↓

**ALTERNATE Reader:** *Fire is important to Aboriginal people and is the heart of Indigenous culture. It is the sign of the Holy Spirit that gives warmth, purifies, and brings many gifts.*

**For congregations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people present:** *Lord, make us feel your invitation to 'come to the water'. At the very beginning you blessed the water, your great gift to us, and now we ask that your blessing be renewed in this water here today. We ask that through this water blessing we will all be renewed with your love, and protection, and your power to love one another as true Christians. Lord, this truly is a sign of the new life in Christ, which in Baptism we have all received.*

*We ask this through Jesus the Wise One. All: Amen*

## Opening Prayer

**Congregations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people present:**

*Almighty God, the source of peace,  
In the midst of conflict and division,  
We know it is you who turn our minds  
to thoughts of peace.  
Your spirit changes hearts:  
enemies begin to speak to one another,  
Those who were estranged join hand in friendship,  
And nations seek the way of peace together.  
Let your spirit be at work with us.  
Give us understanding and put an end to strife.  
Fill us with your mercy and overcome our denial.  
Grant us wisdom  
and teach us to learn from the people of the land.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

*(adapted from the preface of the Eucharistic prayer  
for the Mass of Reconciliation ACSJC,  
Prayer Card 2006)*

**ALTERNATE Or, Congregations:**  
*see Roman Missal for the Day*

# Readings and Reflections

**First reading: Zechariah 9:9-10**

**Responsorial Psalm:**

*Psalm 144: 1-2. 8-11. 13-14.*

**Second Reading:** *Romans 8 :9, 11- 13.*

# Gospel Procession

*In the spirit of our ancestors the Message Stick can be carried forward (and upright) with the Gospel Book. It should be held upright during the Gospel reading. There are other symbols and actions that can be used according to local sacred tradition and need to be discussed according to local practice.*

**Suggested Hymn:** "Alleluia" as per local choice

**GOSPEL:** *Matthew 11: 25-30.*

# Homily Notes

**Bishop Christopher Prowse has prepared a Homily Reflection (with an Introduction by Bishop Brian Heenan) that is included in the Resources Package.**

**Alternatively visit [www.natsicc.org.au](http://www.natsicc.org.au)**

# Prayers of the Faithful

**Please select the intentions for your community from the following:**

**Celebrant:** *Today we celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday throughout Australia. We pay tribute to the contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters make to this country. We bring together these prayers to you God of our Forebears, as we listen, and seek your knowing guidance for our families and communities. Our spirit is open for you to lighten our burdens.*

**Reader:** *May your vision for the world be effective in our lives. We pray for a better understanding and respect for all peoples and peace for all nations.*

**All:** We pray for all those who are weary and burdened.

**Reader:** *We pray for our church, Pope Benedict XVI, our Bishops, Priests, Deacons, and Religious Sisters and Brothers who lift our spirits, support and strengthening us by their commitment and dedicated discipleship.*

**All:** We pray for all those who are weary and burdened.

**Reader:** *We celebrate this day, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday, and for the month of July where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples celebrate survival and the strength of culture and spirit.*

**All:** We pray for all those who are weary and burdened.

**Reader:** *We pray for our Elders and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community leaders who stand for us. May their minds and hearts be guided by their connections to community and their family. Keep them safe from the burden of responsibility, that they too may live in peace and harmony.*

**All:** We pray for all those who are weary and burdened.

**Reader:** *For leaders of all political parties may their decisions be guided by compassion and acceptance of all peoples. May their minds and hearts be open to the spirit of all communities that make up our nation.*

**All:** We pray for all those who are weary and burdened.

**Reader:** *We pray that our young people will listen to the spirit within as they search for deeper meaning in life. In our parish, that we continue to warmly encourage our young people to share their gifts and energy within our church community:*

**All:** We pray for all those who are weary and burdened.

**Reader:** *For those who were stolen or lost, we pray that they may find peace and joy in their hearts as they find their families again. We pray for the brothers and sisters who remain incarcerated. We pray for compassion, healing, well-being and protection from suffering.*

**All:** We pray for all those who are weary and burdened.

**Celebrant:** **We pray Almighty God for all the peoples of this beautiful land. May their hearts, minds and eyes be open to the spirit immemorial that has walked this land. We bring these prayers of need before you in trust and confidence and pray that we may all have the breath of spirit's peace, joy and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

## Offertory Procession

*In some areas the coolamon is used to carry the bread to the altar. In the absence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people participating in the celebration a coolamon can be placed in front of the altar as a symbol of the non presence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters at the table. (Alternative/additional Aboriginal gifts: a boomerang, woomera, Aboriginal painting, clap sticks...)*

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**Recommended Preface:**

*As per Ordinary Sunday*

**Communion Rite:**

*Lord's Prayer and Sign of the Peace*

**Aboriginal Our Father (Can be sung)**

**Chorus**

You are our Father, you live in heaven.  
We talk to you, Father you are good.  
You are our Father, you live in heaven.  
We talk to you, Father you are good.

**First verse**

We believe your Word, Father,  
we your children give us bread today.  
We believe your Word, Father,  
we your children give us bread today.

**Second verse**

We have done wrong, we are sorry.  
Help us Father not to sin again.  
We have done wrong, we are sorry.  
Help us Father not to sin again.

**Third verse**

Others have done wrong to us,  
and we are sorry for them, Father today.  
Others have done wrong to us,  
and we are sorry for them, Father today.

**Fourth verse**

Stop us from doing wrong, Father.  
Save us all from the evil one.  
Stop us from doing wrong, Father.  
Save us all from the evil one.

**Communion Hymn:** "Here I am Lord" (AOV 90),  
"I will always be loving you" (AOV 82)

**Communion Reflection for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Congregations**

**NATSICC Companion Prayer**

*Lord, we are companions on a journey  
Only you Dear Lord know the identity and  
depth of me  
You know my hurts and pains those frustrations I  
feel in this land  
So please, I ask you take my hand and comfort me  
Reconcile and guide me in justice and in faith  
For we're on our way to a dreaming place where you  
expressed your love for me  
Lord, set me free and let me be the servant  
I want to be  
Lord, I thank you for hearing and understanding me  
For Lord, You are always on my mind and on my  
lips and in my heart  
And there's simply no other way that it could be.*  
**Amen**

**ALTERNATIVE Aboriginal Our Father**

*Our Father you are in heaven  
May we talk about your name in a good way  
May you be boss in our lives.  
May we follow your feeling here  
As they do above.  
Give us bread today:  
We have hurt your feelings, feel sorry for us.  
Other have hurt your feelings  
We feel sorry for them.  
Stop us for doing wrong  
Save us all from the evil one.*

# Prayer Over The People

## Prayer of the Aboriginal People

*Father of all,  
You gave us the Dreaming,  
You have spoken to us through our beliefs,  
You then made your love clear to us in the  
person of Jesus  
We thank you for your care.  
You own us, you are our hope.  
Make us strong as we face the problems of change.  
We ask you to help the people of Australia  
to listen to us and respect our culture.  
Make the knowledge of you grow strong  
in all people,  
So that you can be at home in us and we can make a  
home for everyone in our land.*

**Amen.**

*Prepared by Aboriginal people.*

*Pope John Paul II visit to Alice Springs 1986*

**Concluding Hymn:** "Companions on a Journey"  
(AOV 188), or "All Over the World"

**Recessional Procession may be  
accompanied by the Didgeridoo.  
Aboriginal Elders join if applicable.**

## **NATSICC Vision Statement**

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council promotes and celebrates the cultural identity of our peoples across the nation. By Living and expressing in all its endeavours the spirituality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic peoples. Through this expression and recognition of our cultural identity we will find our rightful place within the Catholic Church in Australia.

## **NATSICC Logo**

The NATSICC Logo depicts a willy willy, the wind force in the centre a symbol of God's Spirit. The round concentric circles at the top symbolise God and Life, the base depicts men and women receiving the Holy Spirit. The logo was designed by Mrs Olive Boddington, Western Australia.

## **NATSICC Councilors 2009–2012**

Chairperson Thelma Parker	Queensland Representative
Deputy Chair John Lochowiak	South Australian Representative
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Ronita Barratt	Tasmanian Representative
Kerry O'Callaghan	Australian Capital Territory Representative
Lisa Buxton	New South Wales Representative
Kathleen Callow	Western Australia Representative
Cathie Wilson	Northern Territory Representative

## **References and suggestions**

*Reconciliation Prayer*, Wontulp Bi-Buya Indigenous, Theology Working Group, 13 March 1997 Brisbane, Qld.

## **Artwork**

Melissa Brickell, Yorta Yorta—Wiradjeri, Victoria, 2011

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[www.criticalclassroom.com](http://www.criticalclassroom.com)

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