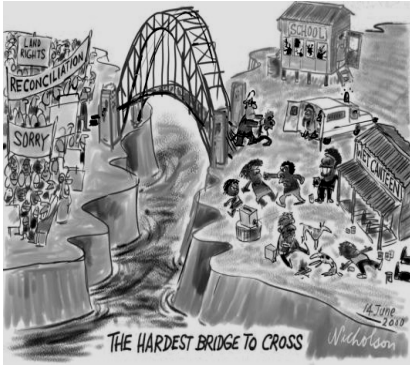


NATSIEC Prayer Material

Sorry Day & Week of Prayer for Reconciliation 2010



Wednesday May 26

National Sorry Day

Reading: Mark 10:32-45

Pray for: the members of the Stolen Generations and the work of the Journey of Healing.

Reflection: *This day is a time to acknowledge the pain and shame of Australian history and the sufferings of Indigenous Peoples, to give thanks to God for the survival of Indigenous cultures, and to pray for the future of the nation. It is a day to join in confessing iniquity, in saying sorry for both the personal and corporate wrongs of the past. Repentance is an essential purpose of this day, as we remember that John the Baptist invited people to a baptism of repentance and that*

Jesus began his ministry with a call to 'repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand'. It is a choice of 'life' or of 'death' (as the Hebrew people knew) at the heart of what it means to live peaceably and in harmony with each other and with this land.

Thursday 27 May Referendum Day

Reconciliation Week begins

Reading: Mark 10: 46-52

Pray for: recognition and respect by all Australians for one another.

Reflection: *"It would seem, in our present political climate that we have a fight on our hands to reclaim this dynamic of our multi-coloured past and present. Well, so be it. History is far too important to leave to the whims of temporary politicians. And this is a good fight, a purifying fight, a fight to claim truth for our nation and our identity"* Dr. Rosalind Kidd.



Friday 28 May

Amnesty International founded, 1962

Reading: Mark 11:11-26

Pray for: all struggling for Indigenous rights, and prisoners of conscience everywhere.

Reflection: *"I am convinced that until true reconciliation with its Indigenous peoples is reached, Australia is a diminished nation. I am also convinced that such reconciliation is possible... One hundred years from now, when we are approaching the second century of our nation, the dreamings of the Aboriginal peoples will record whether we Australians had the determination,*

tolerance, and goodwill to convert short-term possibility into a reality that is timeless. Hopefully, when that time comes, the Yarralin saga of the dispossession will have been supplemented by a sequel in which an Aborigine and a non-Aborigine went forth together throughout the country as friends and equals and overcame the injustice and disadvantage which flowed from the actions of Captain Cook..." Sir William Deane 'Some Signposts from Daguragu', The Inaugural Vincent Lingiari Lecture, 22 Aug 1996.

Saturday 29 May

Reading: Mark 11: 27-33

Pray for: all historians engaged in telling the truth of Indigenous history, and a renewed willingness to listen, hear and act upon it.

Reflection: *The Parable of the Abattoir Wall*

“For many years, the custom in one of the abattoirs had been to paint a coat of whitewash over the bloodstains on its walls. This was found to be a quicker approach to presenting a clean hygienic image than the laborious task of scrubbing down walls. However, the time came when the blood-caked stains from years of white-washing began to turn yellow and a foul smelling slime began to seep from underneath the whitewashed interior. The abattoir had no option but to scrape down the years of accumulated blood-stained whitewash and go back to the original wall surface. There came a point in time, in history, when the scraping back exposure of the cover-ups was necessary before the abattoir could do its work. We believe Australia is now “scraping off the whitewash” and finding its soul” Pastor Bill Hollingsworth, ‘Message Stick’, Journal of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian Congress of the Uniting Church in Australia, June 1997.



Sunday 30 May

Trinity Sunday

Reading: John 16: 12-15

Pray for: greater recognition of Indigenous Law, and for all Indigenous people working within the Australian legal system.

Reflection: *“Reconciliation is an ancient human idea, one which has been pitted against its opposite since history was first recorded. Its opposite is the “winner take all” attitude – the idea that the best only comes from the victor who has vanquished all in his wake...perhaps this is why reconciliation is such an important concept. It presents us with two inherent choices. We have the choice of cooperating for the larger good through reconciliation or we have the choice of continuing conflict, which undermines our national potential for well being and success”* Professor Marcia Langton, Reconciliation Convention, 26 May 1997.

Monday 31 May

Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Reading: Luke 1: 39-56

Pray for: deeper recognition of the sacredness of Indigenous women, their cultures and contributions.

Reflection: *Ngaa Maar/I (Hail Mary) Gu/ja-wun/ba ngiin/da (Most fortunate for you) Maaja ngi/num/ba/la (The Lord is with you) darrunday/day/gam ngiinda nyamiya (Blessed you among women) Darrundaygam minya nginumbanyarr buluunyarr Jijuga (Blessed the fruit of your womb Jesus) Maa/rijaa/gi, mii/mi/ga Maa/ja/gun/di (Mary holy, Mother of God) Ngümba ngi/yam/ba/la young/gu/way/gam/ba (Pray for us who have become bad) Gii/li, ma/la waw, waa/liw/an/di ngi/ya/gay (Now, then too, when will die we all) Baya ngirrala Amen. Gumbaynggir community, Catholic Diocese of Lismore.*





Tuesday 1 June

Readings Mark 12: 13-17

Pray for: a redistribution of resources to meet crying needs, adequate compensation for stolen wages, and genuine reparations to those who have been oppressed and from whom so much has been taken.

Reflection: "Reconciliation requires responsibility, yet governments appear to fear this because it might make them liable for compensation. Yet governments pay compensation to many people affected by their policies and actions. When the nation's leaders rightly accepted their responsibility and took a stand on the guns issue, gun owners were compensated from our taxes. We can compensate for forcing people to hand in their guns; apparently we can't for taking away their children" Patrick Dodson, 26 May 1997.

Wednesday 2 June

Readings: Mark 12: 18-27

Pray for: unity of all Australians in the spirit of Christ.

Reflection: *Father of all creation, you have made us part of this beautiful land, Australia. People have walked this country for many generations. When our white people came our Aboriginal people learned about Your Son, Jesus Christ, and how He gave his life for all people. May your love and grace give us hope that we may be one people in Jesus Christ, with you at home in us, and we at home in this country – Australia. Amen. 'Prayer for Unity and Hope' adapted, Aboriginal Catholic community, Diocese of Lismore.*



Thursday June 3

Mabo Day - High Court Decision in Mabo Case

Readings: Exodus 3:1-6, Acts 9:1-5, Matthew 25:31-46
 (Ecumenical Daily Readings)

Pray for: a renewed will to establish genuine Land Rights for Indigenous people; and for all Indigenous people engaged in Land Rights cases today.

Reflection: *On 3 June 1992 the High Court of Australia handed down its judgement on the Mabo Native Title case. Eddie Mabo was from Mer, one of the Murray Islands in the Torres Strait, off the coast of Northern Australia. He argued in the High Court that Murray Islanders' rights to their land were not extinguished by the annexation of the islands by the State of Queensland, or by subsequent Queensland or Federal Government legislation. The High Court agreed with this view. The idea of 'terra nullius' - that Australia had been empty of people when settled by the British - was abandoned. The ruling at last recognised the prior occupation of the land by Indigenous peoples.*