

Reconciliation Week 2009



See the Person, Not the Stereotype

Liturgy and support material for
schools in the Diocese of Toowoomba.



Reconciliation Week 2009

“See the person, not the stereotype”

Liturgy for Schools

Welcome: Today in our celebration we acknowledge the traditional owners, custodians and ancestors of the (name of the traditional owners) people of this sacred land where we stand today. We thank the Elders past and present for their care and protection of this land.

Gathering Ritual: Begin the liturgy by having didgeridoo music playing softly. Ideally live music would be best but this may not be possible. Students could process in carrying the Cross, Indigenous Artifacts and candles which would then be placed on Indigenous themed fabric to create a sacred space.

Introduction: We gather today in the spirit of ‘Reconciliation’. This day provides an opportunity to focus on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as we seek Gods guidance in pursuing the dream of true Reconciliation.

Opening Prayer: Creator Spirit, God of All, You are the creator of this land and of all good things. Our hope is in you because you gave your Son Jesus to reconcile the world to you. We pray for your strength and grace to forgive, accept and love one another, as you love us and forgive and accept us in the sacrifice of your son.

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:22, 26-27 (God lives with his people)

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord said, “I will unite them into one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. They will have one king to rule over them, and they will no longer be divided into two nations or split into two kingdoms. I will make a covenant with them that guarantees their security for ever. I will establish them and increase their population, and will see to it that my Temple stands for ever in their land. I will live there with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

This is the Word of Lord.



Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 85:7-9

Response: The Lord gives peace to his people.

Show us your constant love.

O Lord, and give us your saving help. R

I am listening to what the Lord God is saying;

He promises peace to us, his own people,

If we do not go back on our foolish ways. R

Surely he is ready to save those who honor him,

And his saving presence will remain in our land. R

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia

“Make disciples of all nations,” says the Lord

Alleluia

Gospel: Matthew 28: 16-20 (Baptise all the nations)

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

The eleven disciples went to the hill in Galilee where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him they worshipped him, even though some of them doubted. Jesus drew near and said to them, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always to the end of the age”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

(Readings taken from Celebrating with Children Volume II Readings Borg, Kelly and Lucas. 1990)

Prayers of the Faithful:

Loving God, on this day of celebration, we acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples throughout Australia. We acknowledge the spiritual and cultural contributions they make to the life of the Church.

We pray for our Church, Pope Benedict XVI, Bishops, Priests and religious Leaders – that they be guided by the Holy Spirit to lead Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and all who live in this land.

Lord Hear Us

We pray for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders in Communities, Church and Government, that Christian values are present in their actions and decision making.

Lord Hear Us

We pray for our Elders. We thank them for the sharing of their knowledge and wisdom. We ask God's blessing on them as they continue to lead us on the journey towards reconciliation.

Lord Hear Us

We pray for our youth. We ask you Lord for guidance on their life's journey, that they may come to know and seek you, and have trust in your love and compassion.

Lord Hear Us

We especially pray for those who are experiencing despair and hopelessness through loss of identity and separation from family and place of belonging. Help them, by your Holy Spirit to be strong and to find love, faith, hope, peace and happiness in you.

Lord Hear Us

We pray Almighty God, as your people, we seek the power of your Spirit. We bring these prayers before you in perfect trust and confidence. Through Christ Our Lord

Amen

As a sign of unity, let us hold hands with those beside us as we pray together

Aboriginal Our Father:

You are Our Father, You live in heaven

We talk to you, Father you are good (repeat)

We believe your Word Father

We your children, give us bread today (repeat)

We have done wrong, we are sorry

Help us Father not to sin again (repeat)

Others have done wrong to us

And we are sorry for them, Father today (repeat)

Stop us from doing wrong, Father

Save us all from the evil one (repeat)

You are our Father, you live in heaven

We talk to you, Father you are good (repeat)

Sign of Peace: At this point have 6 students, 4 Indigenous 2 non- Indigenous (if possible) come forward carrying the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags. The students walk slowly to the centre holding their flags high, turn and walk in separate directions. They then turn and face each other. Start didgeridoo music at this point. Students stand like this while Power Point images depicting Reconciliation are displayed. Following the slide show students walk slowly toward each other and when facing each other intertwine the flags. Flags are then placed around the sacred space still intertwined. Students are then invited to offer each other a sign of peace and reconciliation.

Concluding Prayer: ALL

Prayer for Reconciliation

In the midst of conflict and division,

We know it is you

Who turns our minds to thoughts of peace

Your spirit changes hearts:

Enemies begin to speak to each other,

Those who were estranged join hands in friendship

And nations seek the way of peace together

Let your spirit be at work in 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

Call us to justice

(Adapted from the Preface of the Eucharistic Prayer for the Mass of Reconciliation 11)

Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, Prayer Card, 2006

Final Hymn: As the final hymn is sung flag bearers take the entwined flags and lead the congregation out

Resources

The following resources link with the theme for Reconciliation Week 2009 "See the person, Not the Stereotype". There are numerous other resources available around the topic of Reconciliation and all are available for loan from the office (Contact Nicole or Phillip)

Print Resources

(The following resources are available for loan from the office)

Aboriginal Issues Series, Burgess, C. Myers, J. and Berwick, C.1988. This series looks at Land, Stolen Generations and "Please Explain" which explains why a common stereotype about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people exists. This document has lesson notes, readings and worksheets and would be a suitable resource for Upper Primary and Secondary.

Reconciliation Kit 2007 Brisbane Working Group. A Ritual for National Sorry Day. This a prayer service which includes the Prayer for the Journey of Healing as well as an Expression of sorrow and a prayer of Commitment. More suited to secondary and could be a really special and reflective ceremony if you were to include some traditional music and perhaps a smoking ceremony.

Reconciliation Kit 2007 Brisbane Working Group. Key issues for Reconciliation. This outlines the 4 Key issues for Reconciliation from the 2006 Catholic Bishop's Social Justice Statement.

1. Preservation of Indigenous Culture.
2. Seeking points of Agreement between Indigenous Traditions and those of Jesus.
3. Caring for the Land.
4. Addressing Past Hurts and Injustices.

Countering Racism Using a critical approach in teaching and learning contexts to explore portrayals of Aboriginality. Department of Education, Training and Employment. Written By Margie Barylak. 2000. This document has a 7 Units looking at Racism, Stereotyping, Legislation and Individual racism all with lesson notes and resource sheets. This is certainly worth a look if schools plan on doing work in this area. Again this resource is only suitable for 8-12.

Aboriginal Studies and Torres Strait Islander Studies Sign Posts...to Country Kin and Cultures. Liz Connor, Darcel Moyle, Stephen Smith and Kaye Price. Curriculum Corporation 1997. This document has a number of "Activities" around the theme of people's perceptions, what is racism? etc. Please be aware that some of the information in Activity 10 is outdated with regard to some of the Aboriginal organizations. There are student worksheets and lesson notes. This resource would be suitable for Upper Primary and junior Secondary.

Websites:

Reconciliation Australia www.reconciliation.org.au This website gives you the history of Reconciliation Week, how to do a Reconciliation Action Plan at your school and a request for resources (1 poster is all I could find)

www.school.discoveryeducation.com/lessonplans/programs/stereotyping/ A Unit of work for Years 7-10 on Stereotyping. This is an American website but has some really good ideas that could be easily adapted.

www.harmony.gov.au Diverse Australia Program- Everyone Belongs Lesson Plan 9. A role play style activity that explains the concept of stereotypes and the assumptions that underlie them. (Could be used with Years 5-9). There are also activities for Early Childhood and Primary around the theme of diversity. Some simple ideas to help students better understand people from other cultures.

www.scholastic.com.au 10 scaffolded lessons to help teach students fundamentals in diversity, respect for others and building community. Suitable for Middle to Upper Primary.

Artifacts:

We currently have a collection of Artifacts on loan from the Mornington Island Aboriginal Art Cooperative. They include spears, boomerangs, clap sticks, digging sticks, coolamon and shields. These could be borrowed by schools to use in their liturgy/prayer service.

We also have Aboriginal print fabric, a chalice and patten as well as Indigenous music and art work for loan.

If you would like to look at these or borrow them please call Nicole 46371477.