



From the Liturgy Office....

Every year, Catholics come together across Australia to acknowledge and celebrate the gifts of Australia's First peoples.

This year is particularly important following the COVID19 Pandemic and its impact on the ways in which we interacted and made contact with one another.

Consequently, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) decided to adopt the NAIDOC theme for 2021 – **Heal Country**.

More than ever, our world is in need of healing – spiritually, environmentally and socially. However, healing can only become real when people come together as a global community to fight the injustices of inequality, racism and environmental damage.

Therefore, as we celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday, let us hope that through our prayer and good deeds, our communities may begin to Heal and in turn, aid in the healing of those in most need.

Prayer of Aboriginal People *(For the Pope's visit to Australia in 1986, Aboriginal people composed the following prayer for the ceremony in Alice Springs. This prayer now is prayed by many Catholic Aboriginal groups around the country.)*

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.

God bless, Rita Cordina