



## Introduction of an Acknowledgement of Country to our Masses

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) was established by the Australian Catholic Bishops in 1992. It is the peak advisory body to the Catholic Bishops of Australia. NATSICC's Vision statement states that it "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. Again, this year NATSICC has developed important resources for celebrating this Sunday as the Church in Australia celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People Sunday. The Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane has been developing a Reconciliation Action Plan over the last two years to be implemented across the Archdiocese; several parishes have already piloted the reconciliation plan. As our Archbishop remarks: "Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the implementation of this plan will lead communities on a new path of trust and respect. My ardent hope and prayer is that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples will be encouraged, empowered and supported in every way, so that the entire People of God will be enriched by the gifts which they alone can bring." Archbishop Mark's desire reflects *Pope John Paul II's words to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Alice Springs in 1986*: "Your culture, which shows the lasting genius and dignity of your race, must not be allowed to disappear. Do not think that your gifts are worth so little that you should no longer bother to maintain them. Share them with each other and teach them to your children. Your songs, your stories, your paintings, your dances, your languages, must never be lost." As part of our Parish's positive and supportive movement toward reconciliation with our First Nations peoples, and development of a Parish Reconciliation Action plan, our Parish Pastoral Council has endorsed the decision that from this Sunday we will introduce our weekend Masses with an Acknowledgement of Country.

As NATSICC explains: "An Acknowledgement of Country is a way that all people can show awareness and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage and the ongoing relationship the Traditional Custodians have with their Country. ... It is a demonstration of respect dedicated to the Traditional Custodians of the lands (or sea) where the Mass, event, meeting, school function or conference takes place." This is not simply ticking a box. With the Acknowledgement of Country we will be taking the opportunity to show our respect for the country, the waters and its people. May God bless us all in our endeavours to be a people of reconciliation.

*God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. 2 Cor 5:19.*

*Fr David*

### Plenary Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.

Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.

O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.

Give us the grace to see your face in one another and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.

Give us the courage to tell our stories and to speak boldly of your truth.

Give us ears to listen humbly to each other and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.

Lead your Church into a hope-filled future, that we may live the joy of the Gospel. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, bread for the journey from age to age. Amen.

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.

St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.

**PLENARY COUNCIL:** The Second Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia takes place from July 3-9. Masses and sessions will be live-streamed each day and people are invited to send messages of prayer, hope and support to the Members gathering in Sydney. Find the livestreaming schedule and the portal for sending messages at: [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)

For those that meet each week in our various Parish groups, perhaps you could begin your meeting by saying the Plenary Prayer together and in your own personal prayer each day ask the Holy Spirit to guide the members as they discern this week the way forward for our Australian Church.



### From the Parish Pastoral Council Meeting held Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 4.30pm

- Following on from the parish survey done late last year, three main ministries were identified (Faith formation, Outreach, Gathering & Celebration) as being crucial to the growth and development of our parish. Some 50 parishioners registered interest in getting involved in progressing this forward. At a Parish Pastoral Council meeting last Tuesday, it was agreed that these parishioners will be contacted by Parish Council members with a view to develop an action plan to start moving forward with these ministries. This is a major initiative, and we need your support to make it a success.
- Proposal put forward for one, combined parish celebration event, tentatively planned for January 2023. Watch this space for more details over next few months.
- Starting this weekend, acknowledgement of first nations people will be part of the introduction before the start of every mass.
- The PPC meet once a month and it is our intention to communicate important details on a regular basis.



**Every Friday night** of the school term, we have youth group (Encounter Caboolture). We aim to build a thriving culture of **faith, friendship** and **authenticity** through jam-packed games, good food, powerful talks, prayer experiences and live music. To stay up-to-date with what is happening, follow **@encountercaboolture on Instagram**. Join us at the parish hall 6.30-8.30pm on Friday nights. Click here to register:

<https://bncatholic.ucareapp.com/forms/24/embed>.

One per month, we have youth mass and hangs afterwards. Come and join us for lively music during mass and **pizza and community** afterwards. Looking for a youth initiative in the Archdiocese? Over 18 and keen to connect in with more? Check out <https://catholiccollective.org.au/>.

Please contact Georgina Devenish-Meares (Evangelisation Brisbane Youth Project Officer) or Darcy Rogers (St. Columban's College Campus Minister) if you have any questions about getting involved. Both Georgina and Darcy lead the Youth Group and Youth Mass initiatives. [devenishmearesg@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:devenishmearesg@bne.catholic.net.au) or [darcy.rogers@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:darcy.rogers@bne.catholic.edu.au)

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**Quote of the week:** *"If you want to know your past life, look at your present condition. If you want to know your future life, look at your present actions."*— *Padmasambhava*

*This quote by a Buddhist Monk reminds us of the importance of undertaking intentional actions together to build a better and brighter future for all of us by setting an example of Christian leadership through our love for one another.*

*(Source Evangelisation Brisbane)*

*Have a great week, be kind to yourselves and each other.*