

Aboriginal Sunday Liturgy 6th July 2008

'Celebrate the Living Spirit'

Welcome

To begin the Mass we acknowledge country: *(This can be done by any member of the gathered community.)*

Today in our celebration, we acknowledge the traditional custodians and ancestors *(name the local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people)* of this sacred land where we stand today. We thank the Elders for their care and protection of this land.

Entrance Hymn: "Come as you are" or "Come to Me"

Penitential Rite:

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.

Non-Indigenous Congregations:

Reader: Water to the 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.

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

Non-Indigenous congregations: see Roman Missal for the Day

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Congregations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people present:

Prayer of the Aboriginal people:

(Prepared by Aboriginal people for the visit to Alice Springs in 1986 of Pope John Paul II)

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

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-10

Responsorial Psalm

Response: Yes Father, companionship and tenderness is what pleased you.

Second Reading: Romans 8:9, 11-13

Gospel procession

The Message Stick can be carried forward (and upright) with the Gospel. It can 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. Where appropriate, the didgeridoo can accompany the procession.

Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

Communion Rite: Lord's Prayer and Sign of the Peace

Hymn: "Aboriginal Our Father" or "Blessed are they" or "Knowing the Father and the Son"

Communion Hymn: "Here I am Lord" or "Holy Spirit in this land" or "Aboriginal Our Father"

Communion Prayer (ALL)

Creator Spirit, we thank you for being with us in ancient times and in the new.

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Bless our land Australia, and make it a place of Justice and Peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: 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.

Reader: We pray for truth, justice and healing of this great south land. May the unfinished business of Indigenous peoples have their voice, equity, and clear paths to move all Australians closer to a reconciled country. WE SEEK THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT

ALL: Lord hear our Prayer.

Reader: We pray for his Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, Bishops, Clergy and Religious and all Church leaders. May the Creator guide their wisdom and courage to good decision making. May they inspire and lead the world in love and peace for all. WE SEEK THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT

ALL: Lord hear our Prayer.

Reader: We pray for the World Youth Day pilgrims and travelers. May the celebrations be guided by the Creator Spirit to lead them to love, peace and joy in their travels in Sydney; and safe journey home. WE SEEK THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT

ALL: Lord hear our Prayer.

Reader: We pray for the sick and dying, the homeless and imprisoned, the weary and lost, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. We pray for compassion, healing, wellbeing and protection for those who are suffering. WE SEEK THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT

ALL: Lord hear our Prayer.

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

All Amen

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.

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(alternative Aboriginal gifts: a boomerang, woomera, Aboriginal painting, clap sticks)

Recommended preface: As per Ordinary Sunday

Concluding Prayer

Non Indigenous Congregations: *Bring Forth the Kingdom of Justice*

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Congregations

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.

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

2
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.

3
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.

4. 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.

Chorus

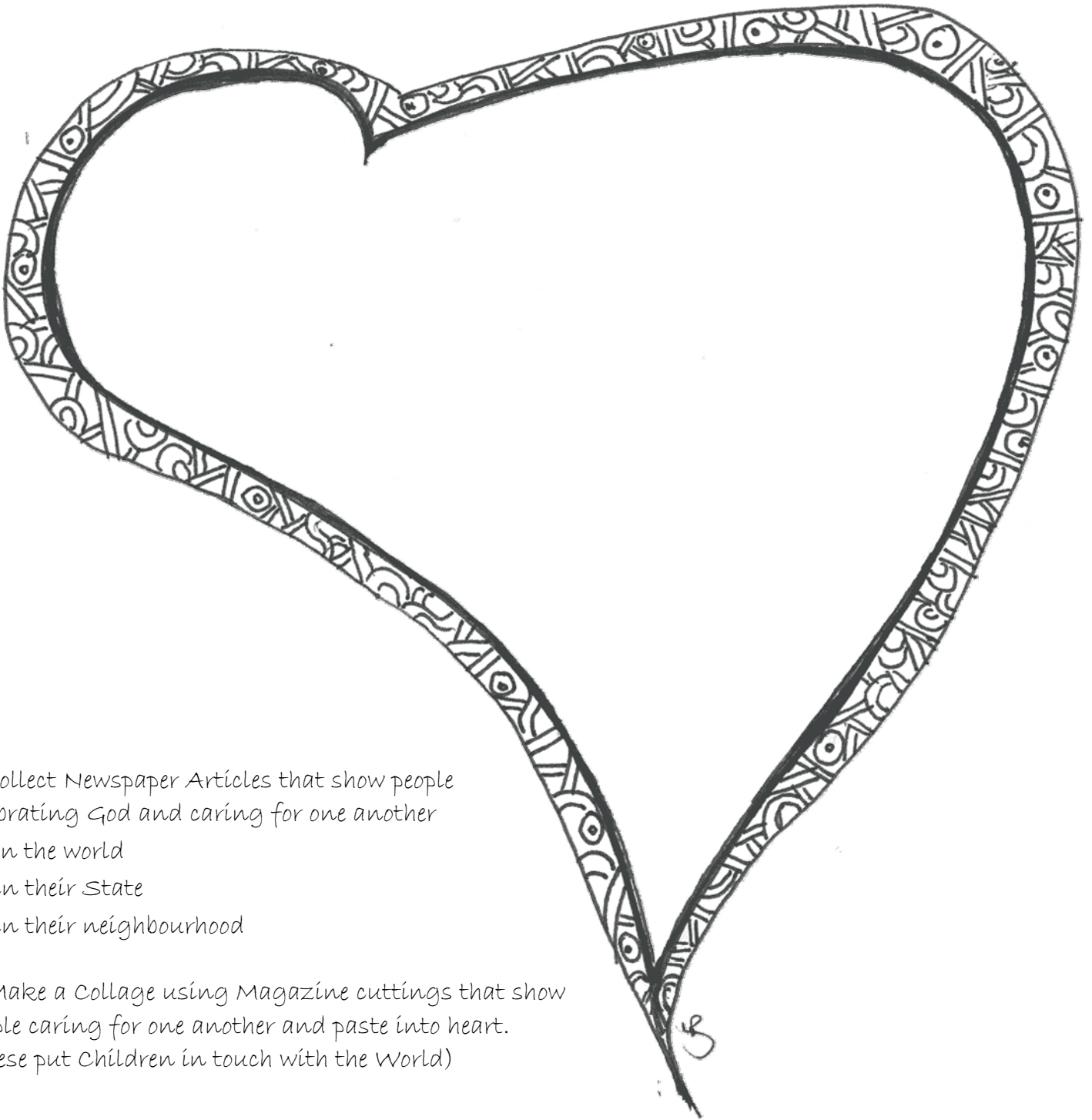
You are our Father, you live in heaven. We talk to you, Father you are good.
You are our Father, you live in heaven. We talk to you, Father you are good.

Prayer of the Aboriginal people: If not used for the opening prayer, it *could be used for the concluding prayer over the people and blessing*

Exit / Concluding Hymn: “Blessed are they” or “Aboriginal our Father

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Children's Activities



1. Collect Newspaper Articles that show people celebrating God and caring for one another

- In the world
- in their State
- in their neighbourhood

2. Make a Collage using Magazine cuttings that show People caring for one another and paste into heart.

(These put Children in touch with the World)

Children's Activities Melissa Brickell

Parish / Teachers please note: You are welcome and encouraged to select a piece of artwork (Story or Collage) and send it to NATSICC to feature in the NATSICC News or on the NATSICC website. Please include name and contact details. NATSICC understands items received are permission granted to Publish.