

## Day 2 ... National Reconciliation Week of Prayer

National Reconciliation Week ([NRW](#)) first started as the **Week of Prayer for Reconciliation in 1993** (the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples) and was supported by Australia's major faith communities. In 1996, this became known as National Reconciliation Week.

The NRW 2021 theme: **More than just a word. Reconciliation takes action.**

On day 2 of NRW, to enable a change of ways, which leads to positive affirmative action, let us first acknowledge our wrongs of the past through confession ...

### Friday May 28 | Prayer of Confession

*Tear Australia Reconciliation Liturgy, pg 5*

**Merciful God,**

**We have clenched our hands in anger  
to threaten and to hurt.**

**We have clutched with our hands  
to keep and to hold selfishly.**

**We have pointed our finger  
to accuse and belittle.**

**We have held our hands idly  
when there is work to be done.**

**We have lifted our hands to hide our eyes  
and shut out sorrow, suffering and need.**

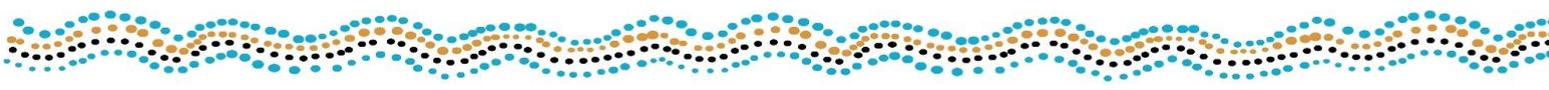
**We have closed our ears  
to cries of help with our hands.**

**We have hidden our hands when we could  
have reached out to our brothers  
and sisters in love.**

**We repent and are sorry for all our sins,  
Father, forgive us,  
Strengthen us to love and live through Jesus Christ.**

**Let us extend our free hands to  
our neighbour in love.**

**In Your Name we pray, Amen**



---

## National Reconciliation Week | May 27 – June 3

This prayer is from TearAustralia's [Reconciliation Action Kit](#), and [Reconciliation Liturgy](#) (developed by the Rev Sally Apolis, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 2008, Port Melbourne, Vic).

These have been designed to support groups in prayerfully moving towards reconciliation.

TearAustralia provides the following acknowledgement on page 2 of their Action kit:

### Acknowledgements

Thank you to the Dhumba Committee who guide the Dhumba Program and TEAR's overall commitment to reconciliation: Grant Paulson, Safina Stewart, Helen Beazley, Brooke Prentis, Chrissy Ellis and Maylene Slater-Burns.

Thank you to Concilia for allowing us to share the Australians Together material; for providing ways for this to be adapted to meet the needs of groups around Australia; and for furthering the work of reconciliation in Australia. It has been our joy to work with you!

Thank you to the contributors of the Reconciliation Action Kit: Greg Hewson, Barbara Deutschmann, Dave Andrews and Beth Koch, and to Sue Earl for her photography.

TEAR acknowledges that different communities and organisations prefer different terms when referring to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. TEAR Australia uses "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander" while Concilia uses the term "Indigenous". Please be assured that these terms are used with the utmost respect and it is our hope that they are received in this spirit.