

Week of Prayer: May 27 – June 3

National Reconciliation Week ([NRW](#)) 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, the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation launched Australia's first National Reconciliation Week. In 2001, Reconciliation Australia was established to continue to provide national leadership on reconciliation.

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

May 26, the day immediately before National Reconciliation Week is National Sorry Day

On our pathway towards reconciliation, Sorry Day on 26 May is an important moment to remember the past policies of forced child removal. Here, we reflect on the sad and painful history of the Stolen Generations and recognise moments of resilience, healing and the power of saying Sorry.

[National Sorry Day](#) is an Australia-wide observance held on May 26 each year. This day gives people the chance to come together and share the steps towards healing for the Stolen Generations, their families and communities. Stolen generations refer to Indigenous Australians who were forcibly removed from their families and communities.

Wednesday May 26 | Prayer for Sorry Day

Almighty and loving God,

You who created ALL people in your image, lead us to seek your compassion as we listen to the stories of the violence in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories.

You gave your only Son, Jesus, who died and rose again so that sin is forgiven. We place before you the pain and anguish of dispossession of land, language, lore, culture and family kinship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have experienced.

We live in faith that all people will rise from the depths of despair and hopelessness, and in particular Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families who have endured the pain and loss of loved ones, through the separation of children and their families.

Touch the hearts of the broken, homeless and inflicted and heal their spirits.

In your mercy and compassion walk with us as we continue our journey of healing to create a future that is just and equitable

Lord you are our hope Amen

National Reconciliation Week | May 27 – June 3

The following prayers are 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:

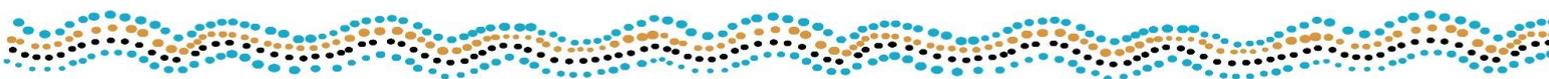
Acknowledgements

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.



Thursday: May 27 | A Prayer for the Journey of Healing

Tear Australia Reconciliation Action Kit, pg 12

Almighty and loving God, you who created all people in your image,
Lead us to seek your compassion as we listen to the stories of our past.
You gave your only Son, Jesus, who died and rose again so that sins will be forgiven.
We place before you the pain and anguish of dispossession of land, language, lore, culture and family kinship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have experienced.
We live in faith that all people will rise from the depths of despair and hopelessness.
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families have endured the pain and loss of loved ones, through the separation of children from their families.
We are sorry and ask Your forgiveness.
Touch the hearts of the broken, homeless and inflicted and heal their spirits.
In your mercy and compassion walk with us as we continue our journey of healing to create a future that is just and equitable.
Lord, you are our hope.

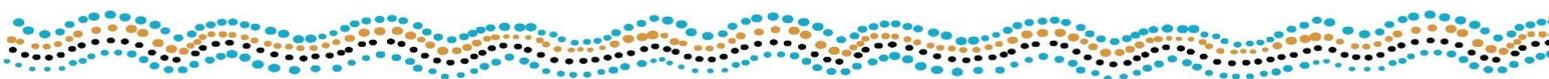
Amen

*By the National and Torres Strait Islander
Ecumenical Commission (www.ncca.org.au/natsiec)
Used with permission.*

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



Saturday May 29 | Reconciliation Prayer

Tear Australia Reconciliation Liturgy, pg 2

Dear God,
We who have come from every land give thanks for
our country Australia.
This earth that feeds us,
The shores that bind us,
The skies that envelop our freedom,
We give our thanks and praise.
Let us look back with courage;
See the truth and speak it.
Let us look around with compassion;
See the cost and share it.
Let us look forward with hope;
See what can be and create it.
Amen!

Sunday May 30 | Gathering Prayer for Unity in the Trinity

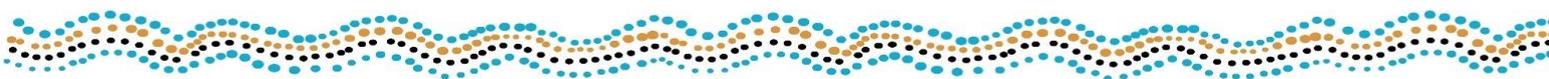
Tear Australia Reconciliation Liturgy, pg 1

God the Father, God the Son
and God the Holy Spirit
By the Reconciling power of your love,
you call us into the Unity of Grace.
Through our many differences:
Differences of gender
Differences of age
Differences of nationalities
Differences of states
Differences of professions
Differences of Christian expression
We gather in your name:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Monday May 31 | A Prayer for Reconciliation

© Prayer by Bishop Arthur Malcolm taken from APBA | Tear Australia Reconciliation Action Kit, pg 15

Lord God, bring us together as one,
Reconciled with you and with each other.
You made us in your likeness.
You gave us your Son, Jesus Christ.
He has given us forgiveness from sin.
Lord God, bring us together as one,
Different in culture, but given new life in Jesus Christ:
Together as your body, your church, your people.
Lord God, bring us together as one,
Reconciled, healed, forgiven,
Sharing you with others as you have called us to do.
In Jesus Christ, let us be together as one.



Tuesday June 1 | The Lord's Prayer

Guugu Yimidhirr (*language of the Hopevale community*)

Biiba nganhdhanun, jiriwi nhundu nhin gaalgal. Gadil gurra guugu nhanumungu, nganhdhaan magu badaaygu yinildhirr manaaya. Bama warrga nubungu guugu nhanu binalingu maandhinu, gurra bubuwi; galmba milga-dhirr nhingaaynhu, yimidhirr anggali, jiriwi nhanu milga dhirr budhuun nhin gaalgal. Mayi nhila budhanu, nhundu nganhdhanun nhila wuwaa. Ngandhdaan warra nhin-gaayga; nhayun nhundu milga-ngandaaya.

Bama ngandhdanun guli-madhiga. Ngandhdaan galmba dhilin dhawuun-dhirr manadhinhu. Sataan ga gurra bama-ngu, nhundugu ngandhdanun burrburr gurrala warrangan gima wuthaathigamu. Warrangan nganhdhanun dhaarngala budhu nyundugu burrburr budhunda. Nhayun manubudhungu.

English translation

Father, you are there for us, and you live in heaven. We hear your Name and the things you say that make us afraid.

People everywhere accept your word and know they must take it out into the world, also being obedient living like your angels in heaven being very obedient in the way we need to live.

It is good to now eat your body that you alone now give to us.

We have bad living sometimes and know that you forget.

People get angry with us and then we also become friends

Take us away from Satan and bring your people to you alone making us strong so that when we are bad don't make us soft and give in.

From bad things you always free us, you alone are very, very strong.

That is true.

Wednesday June 2 | A Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Rev'd Lenore Parker, Tear Australia Reconciliation Action Kit, pg 9
A Prayer Book for Australia 1999.*

God of Holy Dreaming, Great Creator Spirit, from the dawn of creation you have given your children the good things of Mother Earth.

You spoke and the gum tree grew.

In the vast desert and dense forest, and in cities at the water's edge, Creation sings your praise. Your presence endures as the rock at the heart of our Land.

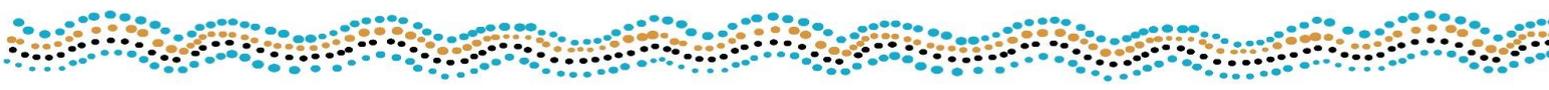
When Jesus hung on the tree you heard the cries of all your people and became one with your wounded ones: the convicts, the hunted, the dispossessed.

The sunrise of your Son coloured the earth anew, and bathed it in glorious hope.

In Jesus we have been reconciled to you, to each other and to your whole creation.

Lead us on, Great Spirit, as we gather from the four corners of the earth; enable us to walk together in trust from the hurt and shame of the past into the full day which has dawned in Jesus Christ.

Amen



Thursday June 3 | Closing Prayer

By Bruce Prewer (adapted). Used with permission. Tear Australia Reconciliation Action Kit, pg 18

God of all ancient peoples,
Lord of all tribes,
show those of us who are
more recent arrivals
in this Great South Land
how best we can support Indigenous Australians
to live with dignity,
and to make their rich contribution
to our growing nation.
Thank you for those in government,
and in the church community
who are really listening
and responding with true wisdom
to their cries for justice.
Thank you for rights restored,
for apologies made,
for emerging Indigenous leaders,
poets, priests, campaigners and visionaries.
We pray with anguished soul
for the descendants of peoples
disinherited long ago,
for those broken spirits
who gather without aim or hope
in parks and lanes and dusty streets.
We pray for children without a childhood;
For women without security;
For men without respect.
Lord, we just don't know
what we can do –
except perhaps to admit to them
that we are burdened to belong
to the race that dispossessed them.
Lord, hear our cry;
We long to undo
the many wrongs,
as far as that is possible.
But how do we start, Lord?
Where do we start?
Lord, hear our cry!