

# A Reconciliation Week Prayer

## ***Acknowledgement of the Land***

As we gather to pray for Reconciliation may we remember that May 27 and June 3 are important dates in Australia's history. May 27 marks the anniversary of the 1967 referendum when Australians voted to remove clauses in the Australian Constitution that discriminated against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. June 3 marks the historic 1992 Mabo decision in which the High Court of Australia recognised native title—the recognition that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights over their lands did survive British colonisation; and so we acknowledge that we gather today on the land of (*insert the name of the Traditional owners for the land on which you pray*) and pay our respects to their elders both past and present, for they hold the memories, the culture and the wisdom upon which our nation's future will be built.

***Opening Song: Come Walk With Me ( Michael Long)***

## ***Penitential Rite***

Holy Father, God of Love  
You are the Creator of this land and all good things.  
We acknowledge the pain and shame of our history  
And the suffering of our peoples.  
Lord Have Mercy

ALL: LORD, HAVE MERCY

Holy Father, God of Love  
We thank you for  
the survival of Indigenous cultures  
Our hope is in you because  
your son Jesus Christ came  
to reconcile the world to you.  
Christ Have Mercy

ALL: CHRIST HAVE MERCY

Holy Father, God of Love  
Teach us to respect all cultures.  
Help us to bring about spiritual and social change  
Lord Have Mercy

ALL: LORD HAVE MERCY

## ***Opening Prayer***

Lord, open up our hearts so that we may hear the message you teach of a world in which the wrongs of the past are recognised - a world in which a reconciled people walk and talk together sharing stories; a world in which all burn with the desire to have your peace and justice reign. We ask this in Jesus' name.

ALL: AMEN

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## ***Liturgy of the Word***

### ***First Reading: James 2:14-26***

<sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? <sup>15</sup> Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup> If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup> In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

<sup>18</sup> But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

<sup>19</sup> You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

<sup>20</sup> You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?

<sup>21</sup> Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup> You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. <sup>23</sup> And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. <sup>24</sup> You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

This is the Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God

*The Word is processed with the Message Stick*

### ***Gospel: John 14:15-21***

<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

### ***A reflection on the Word***

#### ***General Intercessions:***

God of love and justice, we pray that our political, religious and community leaders act in the interests of all the people in this land... that they walk the talk of reconciliation.  
Lord, Hear Us

ALL: Lord, come walk with us towards peace and reconciliation

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God of love and justice, we pray for those who still suffer sadness because of the government policies of the past ... may they be healed by us walking the talk of your Gospel command to love.

Lord Hear Us

ALL: Lord, come walk with us towards peace and reconciliation

God of love and justice, we pray for those who are ostracized because they walk the talk of reconciliation. May our nation encourage and celebrate their work.

Lord Hear Us

ALL: Lord, come walk with us towards peace and reconciliation

God of Love and justice, help us to learn the message of justice taught by Pope Francis who has instructed us to go out. Go out and share... go out and interact with our brothers and sisters, go out and share, go out and ask. Become your Word in body as well as spirit.

ALL: Lord, come walk with us towards peace and reconciliation

*A recording of didgeridoo is played as slides of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non Indigenous people working together are shown.*

Together let us sing the prayer that Jesus taught us:

### ***Aboriginal Our Father***

You are Our Father, you live in heaven  
We talk to you, Father you are good (repeat)

We believe your Word Father  
We your children, give us bread today (repeat)

We have done wrong, we are sorry  
Help us Father not to sin again (repeat)

Others have done wrong to us  
And we are sorry for them, Father today (repeat)

Stop us from doing wrong, Father  
Save us all from the evil one (repeat)

You are Our Father, you live in heaven  
We talk to you, Father you are good (repeat)

*The Lord's Prayer from the "Missa Kimberley"*

***Reflection Activity*** Each student is given a template of a foot on red or yellow paper (see resources) and there is a quiet time with "Come Walk With Me" playing during which they write a personal reflection/message on "walking the talk of reconciliation". These are collected and are used to create a display with additional feet cut out in black paper. This display will be a statement of the commitment by students to "walk the talk".

### ***Final Prayer: Lord, we pray for Reconciliation:***

That the wrongs of the past may be recognized,  
That our awareness of the journey so far be awakened,  
And that the Spirit move us to walk the talk and see through what has been started.  
We ask this in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN

***Closing Song: Come Walk With Me ( Michael Long)***

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## RESOURCES THAT MIGHT BE USED BEFORE OR AFTER THE PRAYER TO GIVE A CONTEXT AND MEANING TO THE LITURGY.

*“Come walk with me” by Michael Long is available from The Long Walk website for \$10*

Aboriginal “Our Father” lyrics and MP3 available at :  
<http://acmlismore.org.au/prayersDetail.php?Aboriginal-Our-Father-6>

### Reconciliation Australia

Reconciliation Week activities  
<http://www.reconciliation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/NRW-Teaching-and-Learning-Ideas.pdf>

<http://www.reconciliation.org.au/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYu2Q09zoXM>

### The Long Walk ( 2014 is the 10th anniversary)

<http://www.thelongwalk.com.au/About/Our-Story>

### Michael Long talks about what it means to walk the talk

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNDfHFDSiXk>

### The “RECOGNISE” campaign

<http://www.recognise.org.au/>

<http://recognisethis.org.au/>

### Short clips on Reconciliation

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IErghc\\_2j4w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IErghc_2j4w)

Documentary on the Northern Territory Intervention  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tcq4oGL0wII>

Angus Houston speaks about Reconciliation and the importance of the ANZAC centenary

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ycgkhl8q2y8>

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