**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Week 2013**

(Sacred space – Aboriginal, TSI & Aus. Flags)

**Gathering song**

Instrumental indigenous music including visuals

**Welcome**

**Reader:**

Today we recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander week. We acknowledge the deeply religious and spiritual traditions of our ancestors with respect. It is a week of celebrations throughout the nation where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people celebrate their gifts of spirituality, identity, culture and survival.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics bring beautiful gifts to the Church of Australia, and it is on this day that we celebrate those gifts. The theme this year focuses on “Peace and Mercy for All”. We are all welcomed and encouraged to join in as we gather (sign of the cross) in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit to rejoice and build deeper relationships with one another.

Today in our celebrations we light the school candle as we gather as a community to pray for “Peace and Mercy for All”.

We light our Indigenous candle to acknowledge the original custodians of the land on which we gather.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  :School and Indigenous candles lit

**Procession**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ :**Cross

The cross symbolises spirituality and healing. It is also a sign of resurrection and hope.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** :Gospel Book

The Book of the Gospels is a sign and symbol of Christ's active presence in the proclamation of the word of God.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ :** Message stick

In the spirit of our ancestors the Message stick is a symbol of our unity.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  :Coolamon dish

Traditionally, the water carried in the coolamon dish is a sign of God’s peace and fulfillment in everything that is good.

Please join together to say The Lord’s Prayer as a symbol of unity among our school community assembled here today.

**Opening Prayer:**

**Our Father**

Our Father who art in heaven;
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation:
but deliver us from evil.

**READING: Read by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke 10:1-11

### Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two

After this the Lord chose another seventy-two[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke%2010:%201-20&version=GNT#fen-GNT-28407a)] men and sent them out two by two, to go ahead of him to every town and place where he himself was about to go. 2He said to them, “There is a large harvest, but few workers to gather it in. Pray to the owner of the harvest that he will send out workers to gather in his harvest. 3Go! I am sending you like lambs among wolves. 4Don't take a purse or a beggar's bag or shoes; don't stop to greet anyone on the road.

Whenever you go into a house, first say, ‘Peace be with this house.’ 6If someone who is peace-loving lives there, let your greeting of peace remain on that person; if not, take back your greeting of peace. 7Stay in that same house, eating and drinking whatever they offer you, for workers should be given their pay. Don't move around from one house to another.

Whenever you go into a town and are made welcome, eat what is set before you, 9heal the sick in that town, and say to the people there, ‘The Kingdom of God has come near you.’ 10But whenever you go into a town and are not welcomed, go out in the streets and say, 11‘Even the dust from your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. But remember that the Kingdom of God has come near you!’

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**Reflection:**  The disciple is called on to travel light. Jesus himself “had nowhere to lay his head” and only had the clothes he wore. So many of us are weighed down by the things we own. In our search for wealth and material goods we have lost the more precious gift of freedom.

How can we learn from Jesus to pursue holiness rather than material goods?

We are all rich with spiritual gifts. And it is through the sharing of our own spiritual gifts that opens our hearts to be influenced for good, and inspire us to touch the hearts of others. Together, we can work towards Peace and Mercy for All.

We are about to listen to a song called ‘Hands Across Australia’. The song is about coming together and uniting as one nation. It is about thanking God for the gifts that the indigenous people bring and about each of us offering our gifts and working together to make Australia a better place.

**Reflection song: Hands Across Australia – Generation One**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

Reader: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

On this day of celebration as we acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander peoples throughout Australia, we turn to God in prayer and seek the help of the Holy Spirit as we commit ourselves to praying and journeying together in the spirit of Reconciliation. (pause)

We prayer for all Aboriginal and Torres strait islander Communities: that the Holy Spirit strengthen the love of Jesus in our lives, as they struggle for truth, equality, justice and healing Lord, hear us

**All: Lord hear our prayer**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 We prayer for our brothers and sisters who struggle for justice and Reconciliation; that they will be blessed by God’s love. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer**.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

We pray for our young people; that the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Virgin Mary will walk with them and touch their lives as they make their contribution to God, the Church and society. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

We pray for the sick and dying, the homeless and imprisoned, the refugees in detention, the weary and lost: that their faith stays strong and that the Blessed Mother Mary’s love of all fill their hearts. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer**

**Crystal**

We pray that our Faith stays strong and continued to what God’s wants it to be in Australia. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

We pray, Almighty God, as your people and seek the power of your Holy Spirit. We bring our needs before you in trust and confidence.

We ask these prayers through Christ our Lord, Amen.

(If time permits) We have talked about the different gifts we have to offer now let’s reflect upon how you can use them to serve others and make Australia a better place.

**Reflection video**

**Prayer read by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Appreciating what we have in common with others

Lord, we ask you to open our eyes

that we may value and appreciate all people,

recognising what we have in common

rather than focusing

on what our differences might be.

Inspire us to distinguish

between what is important

and what is not,

and open our minds and hearts

that we may always be people of good will

who bring life and joy to others. **Amen**.

Close

Let us go in peace and use our spiritual gifts for good and work together in the spirit of Reconciliation, peace and mercy for all.