



**National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday
(5-6 July, 2008)**



NATSICC

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Catholic Council (NATSICC) was formed in 1989 at the first National Conference of the Aboriginal and Islander Catholic Councils. In 1992 the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference officially recognised and welcomed it as the national representative and consultative body to the Church on Issues concerning Indigenous Catholics.

NATSICC acts as an avenue that helps Aboriginal and Torres Strait people to have a voice in the Catholic Church in Australia.

NATSICC provides the only Liturgy approved by the National Liturgical Commission for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday (first Sunday in July). To download a copy of previous year's Liturgy, please go to <http://www.natsicc.org.au/index.htm>

From Elsie Heiss, NATSICC Chairperson

“Celebrate the Living Spirit’ is our theme for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. There have been many reasons to celebrate our culture over the past years. One of the most significant has been this year, in February 2008, which was the apology from the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and his government to Australia’s Indigenous peoples. My personal feelings, and my family’s, was a strong sense of emotional relief. At last, my family and I, have some closure from my mother’s traumatic experiences, being one of the stolen generations.”

As we read in Scripture, with Jesus, let us share each other’s burdens “come to me all you who are weary and heavy burdened and I will give you rest” (Matt 11:28), so that we might bring to reality Jesus words “that we may all be one” (Jn 17:21).

Franciscan work

Franciscans have had a long association with Indigenous Australians. For example, a number of Friars were stationed at Palm Island and Fantome Island. The Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMMs) still have a presence there. FMMs are still working with Aborigines in Mount Isa and Alice Springs.

The Friars at Minto have considerable contact with Indigenous Australians. Many of their callers are Indigenous who seek assistance for food and many live in the housing estate.

Prayers of Intercession

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 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. *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. *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. *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. *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. *Amen.*