



## NAIDOC WEEK 5 – 12 July



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday, a day that has been celebrated for 65 years, is on Sunday 5 July. On this day we acknowledge the deeply religious and spiritual traditions of Indigenous people with respect. It is also the beginning of NAIDOC week of celebrations throughout the nation.

NAIDOC Week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The week is an opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

NAIDOC originally stood for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee'. This committee was once responsible for organising national activities during NAIDOC Week and its acronym has since become the name of the week itself.

Local community celebrations during NAIDOC Week are encouraged and often organised by communities, government agencies, local councils, schools and workplaces, Church and faith communities. Suggestions for activities can be found on the NAIDOC website. Taking part in NAIDOC Week is a great way to celebrate Indigenous culture and build bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.



*God's Holy Spirit brings:  
Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness,  
Goodness, Trustfulness, Gentleness and Self-control*

**Reconciliation Prayer**

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 Indigenous people.  
And we ask your forgiveness.  
We thank you for the survival of Indigenous cultures  
Our hope is in you because you gave your son Jesus  
To reconcile the world to you.  
We pray for your strength and grace to forgive,  
Accept and love one another,  
As you love us and forgive and accept us  
In the sacrifice of your Son.  
Give us the courage to accept the realities of our history  
So that we may build a better future for our nation.  
Teach us to respect all cultures.  
Teach us to care for our land and waters.  
Help us to share justly the resources of this land.  
Help us to bring about spiritual and social change  
To improve the quality of life for all groups in our communities,  
Especially the disadvantaged.  
Help our young people to find true dignity and self esteem by your Spirit  
May your power and love be the foundations  
on which we build our families, our communities and our Nation.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

**Significant days:****5 July – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday****11 July – World Population Day**

Sources: [www.naidoc.org.au](http://www.naidoc.org.au)  
<http://www.natsicc.org.au/index.htm>