

National Sorry Day &
Reconciliation Week
Adult Liturgy Resource
We Are Sorry



Image from www.liturgyritualprayer.com

Prayer to begin a Parish meeting during the Week of Reconciliation:

Leader: Let us pray this week for our Indigenous brothers and sisters, asking God to bless them with healing, forgiving hearts and hope ...

All: Father of all, you gave our Indigenous People the Dreaming.
You also revealed your love in the person of Jesus.
In the spirit of the land, be their hope.
Help us all to face the pain of their past,
to hear and respect their culture.
May your love grow strong in all Australians hearts
so that you can be at home in each one of us.
We ask our prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Adapted from a Prayer prepared by the Aboriginal People for Pope John Paul II's visit to Alice Springs 1996.

Prayer of the Faithful:

Presider: Let us pray for God's forgiveness and for the courage to change our society ...

Reader: God of Love, Creator of this land,
heal the pain and shame of our history and the suffering of our Indigenous peoples ... (pause) ... Lord, hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Soothe the grief of those who were taken as children from their homes and families, taken from all they knew and loved ... (pause) ... Lord, hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Give us all the strength to forgive,

and the grace to accept and love one another
as you love, forgive and accept us ... (pause) ... Lord, hear us:
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Give us the courage to acknowledge the realities of our history
so that we may build a better future for our nation ... (pause) ... Lord, hear us:
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: 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 ... (pause) ... Lord, hear us:
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Help us to bring about spiritual and social change
to improve the quality of life for all groups in our communities,
especially the disadvantaged ... (pause) ... Lord, hear us:
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Help our Indigenous young people to find true dignity and self-esteem
in the ways of your Spirit ... (pause) ... Lord, hear us:
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Welcome all who have died - especially our Indigenous Peoples -
into your loving embrace ... (pause) ... Lord, hear us:
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Presider: Lord our God, may the power of your love be the foundation
on which we build our families, our communities and our nation.
We ask these prayers through your Son, Jesus Christ.
All: Amen.

*Adapted from a Prayer prepared by Wontulp Bi-Buya Indigenous Theology Working Group 13th March, 1997,
Brisbane QLD*

Blessing and Dismissal at the end of Sunday Mass:

Presider: May the God of the Dreaming bless all Australians in the name of the Father,
+ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Presider: Go forth this day to build a community
where equality and respect will flourish among all races
as you announce the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!