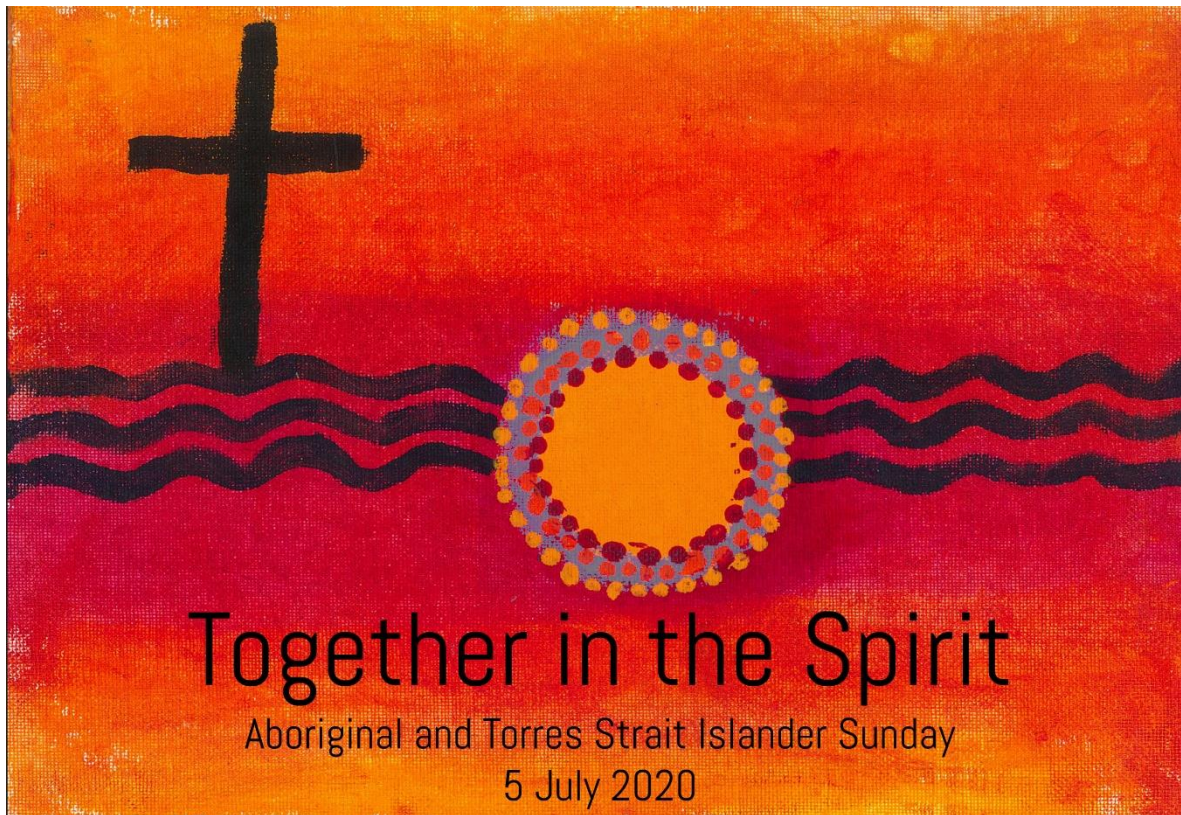


CALLED TO PRAY FOR HONG KONG, MELBOURNE & THE FIRST PEOPLES OF AUSTRALIA  
14th Sunday in Ordinary time ~ 5 July 2020



There is so much to pray about.  
There are so many people for whom we can pray at present.

#### CALL TO PRAYER - HONG KONG & CHINA

*Cardinal Charles Maung Bo from Myanmar* has issued a call to prayer.  
He is the President of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences.

*"I call on Christians of all traditions and people of all faiths,  
throughout Asia and the world,  
to pray for Hong Kong,  
and indeed for China and all her people, with great insistence."*

<https://www.americamagazine.org/.../head-asian-bishops-pray-h...>

*Cardinal Zen from Hong Kong* highlighted the gravity of the current situation some days ago,  
for human rights and human dignity and their future.

<https://www.ncronline.org/.../cardinal-zen-says-hes-prepared-...>

Let us pray for the human rights, freedoms and safety of the people  
of Hong Kong, and for all people in China.

[pause]

### [CALL TO PRAYER - COVID-19 IN MELBOURNE](#)

Let us pray for the people of Melbourne.

[pause]

We pray to you O God  
during this time of the COVID-19 Pandemic  
for the suburban hotspots in Melbourne.  
We pray for those who have tested positive.  
We pray for their families and friends.  
We pray for all the people  
involved in tracing, testing and medical support.  
We pray as family for our sisters and brothers.  
Amen

### [CALL TO PRAYER - NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY](#)

As we look with wonder at the ancient history of this land and its people,  
we pray for all traditional owners and custodians of the land and sea of this continent.

Each group has its own relationship to the land and are one with the land.

One such group of custodians is the Mirarr people  
of Western Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory.

They are custodians and traditional owners of Madjedbebe Rock Shelter.  
- custodians of a 65,000 year living and continuous history in their land.  
Mirarr Elders, archaeologists and scientists have worked together  
to give us insights into the food and lifestyle of Aboriginal people so long ago,  
and commonalities with the present day.

We pray for them as they continue to share their insights.

We pray for all Torres Strait Islander Peoples and their annual celebration  
of the Coming of the Light on July 1st.

The first Sunday of July is National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday.

It is a joint call to prayer each year by the Australian Catholic Bishops  
and the [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council](#)

Cynthia led us earlier in the Acknowledgement of Country,  
and she will lead us in a call to prayer in the General Intercessions.

A video clip from NATSICC will be shown at the conclusion of the homily.

### [MURRI MINISTRY SHARE ANNUAL ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE MASS](#)

At 12 noon today, Murri Ministry will share in the annual Archdiocesan  
[Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mass](#) at St Stephen's Cathedral in Brisbane.

The Mass will be Livestreamed.

Below the Cross today in our church are two special stories which we were highlighted at the two previous Masses. The painting and the photo share spiritual insights into Quandamooka Catholic people.

Our own parish community will be one of the pilot parishes for the Archdiocese of Brisbane Reconciliation Action Plan. With God's Word to inspire us, with open hearts and minds, let us move along the journey of reconciliation.

#### GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 11:25-30

In the three calls to prayer above, we join in solidarity with them.

- For the people of Melbourne
- For the people of Hong Kong
- For all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

In today's Gospel, we hear that no one group holds all the wisdom. The Gospel reads:

***"At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will\*"***

Jesus calls us to be in solidarity with God and each other.

The Gospel reads:

***'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'*** "

Let us highlight a few words in the passage:

Come to **ME**, all **YOU**  
that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,  
and **I** will give **YOU** rest.  
Take **MY** yoke upon **YOU**, and learn from **ME**;  
for **I** am gentle and humble in heart,  
and **YOU** will find rest for **YOUR** souls.  
For **MY** yoke is easy, and **MY** burden is light.'

We understand more deeply the relationship that Jesus offers us. The invitation of Jesus to come to him, bringing our pain and troubles and weariness.

With our shared concerns for the people of Melbourne,  
for the people of Hong Kong,  
and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples,  
we bring our concerns to Jesus in prayer.

### THE YOKE OF SOLIDARITY

In those days, a yoke was a wooden neck frame between two animals,  
helping them to pull together, making it easier.  
We could imagine two oxen pulling in different directions.  
What a mess. Making it so difficult.

Yet with a frame, they go in the same direction, together,  
as a team, in partnership.  
Jesus invites us, in love, to pull together with Him.

If we don't, we make it so hard for ourselves.

Jesus did not say the yoke is easy.  
He said, *"My yoke is easy"*.  
Jesus did not say the burden is light.  
He said, *"My burden is light"*.

Pulling against each other through sin,  
through hatred, avarice, condescension,  
bigotry, sexism, racism and other ways,  
makes our burden so heavy.  
We strain ourselves unnecessarily.  
We say that we can be our own worst enemy.

Pulling together involves humility.  
It involves the gentleness of Jesus.  
It involves learning from Jesus.  
Working together with Jesus in love.

Pulling together also implies resting.  
In Genesis we hear that God rested on the seventh day.  
God sets the example.  
We too need time for rest from work and pressure,  
and time for renewal.

Time to rest with God.

Let us now view a clip from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic  
Council presentation.

Fr Gerry

Readings: <https://universalis.com/Australia/20200705/mass.htm>