

'MY YOKE IS EASY, AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT' – HOMILY – 9 JULY 2017

### SHARING AND CARING

Yesterday Minjerribah-Moorgumpin Elders-in-Council (MMEIC) hosted NAIDOC Day at Terra Bulla Leumeah on Minjerribah in Quandamooka country.

It was a memorable time of gathering.

Aunty Merle welcomed people to Country.

The Flag was raised.

Speeches included Aboriginal speakers, and Local and State Government representatives.

The Yulu-Burri-Ba Kunjil Dance Group were as impressive as ever,

And inspiring to see the next generation of young girls and boys continuing the rich dance,

And the story tradition of corroboree.

For those overseas, this is near Brisbane in Australia.

Minjerribah is North Stradbroke Island,

Moorgumpin is Moreton Island,

Quandamooka is Moreton Bay.

Terra Bulla Leumeah is north of the town of Dunwich.

This past week has been a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

NAIDOC means National Aboriginal and Islander Observance Committee.

Wider than a week for the people here,

The Nunukul, Nughi and Goenpul clans celebrate an annual winter festival, July through to September.

There were stalls run by different local groups and Government agencies.

Children were taught painting.

Spear throwing and sand art were exhibited and a choir sang.

The Elders were respected and applauded.

Children and parents were highlighted.

It was an inclusive gathering, and each group held special.

The connectedness of people was prominent.

And mutual respect across cultures,

With visitors welcomed.

And a thanksgiving presentation to Elder, Aunty Margaret Iselin for her cultural leadership.

### INCLUSIVE, NOT EXCLUSIVE

In today's Gospel, Matthew 11:25-30, we hear that no one group holds all the wisdom.

The meaning and purpose of human existence are **not a secret** owned by a select group of the wisest and most intelligent, **nor** today owned by the wealthiest and most powerful.

***"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.'"***\*

## KNOWING AND REVEALING

The Gospel continues with the importance of the relationship in God Between Father and Jesus the Son.

This relationship reflects on knowing God and how God is revealed personally to us.

*“All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. “*

## RELATIONSHIP

*‘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.

Jesus offers us so much.

It is not the Scribes and Pharisees that lighten our loads.

The First Reading from Zechariah 9:9-10 points to the one coming

*“humble and riding on a donkey”*

*“He will proclaim peace for the nations”*

**What Jesus offers is offered humbly. A peace offered by God.**

Yesterday’s NAIDOC ceremony was an example of pulling together.

Pulling together in the same direction.

## THE YOKE? WHAT IS IT?

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.  
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.

**HOW DO WE, NOT ONLY TAKE A REST FROM OUR WORK, TO RENEW OURSELVES,  
BUT ALSO, TO REST WITH GOD?**

**HOW DO WE REST WITH GOD?**

A question you are invited to reflect on this week.  
Let us pray.

Fr Gerry

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/070917.cfm>]  
[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook09072017>]

Map of Quandamooka is reproduced on the next page <http://bit.ly/QuandamookaMap>



### QUANDAMOOKA COUNTRY

Quandamooka Country extends from Moorgumpin and Minjerribah and encompasses the beautiful bay islands. On the mainland, our country reaches from the mouth of the Brisbane River through to Tingalpa, the Redlands to the Logan River. Our language group Jandai was recorded as a dialect of the Brisbane language and it is believed that there were shared words with neighbouring groups, particularly Durubul and Yuggera.

#### Some place names of Quandamooka

Amity .....	<i>Pulan</i>
Blue Lake .....	<i>Karboora / Gabura</i>
Brown Lake .....	<i>Bummiera</i>
Campbell Point Moreton Island .....	<i>Unboundba</i>
Cape Moreton .....	<i>Ganemba / Gunemba</i>
Cleveland .....	<i>Nandeebie / Indillie</i>
Comboyuro Point .....	<i>Gnahmoonbilla</i>
Coochiemudlo .....	<i>Goochie Goochie-pa / Goochie mudlo</i>
Cowan Cowan .....	<i>Warrajamba</i>
Dunwich .....	<i>Goompi</i>
Fisherman Island .....	<i>Andaccahl</i>
Green Island .....	<i>Milwarpa / Danggar / Tangeera</i>
Lytton .....	<i>Alongpin/Gnaloopin</i>
Macleay Island .....	<i>Jencoemercha</i>
Manly .....	<i>Narlang</i>
Moreton Island .....	<i>Moorgumpin / Mulganpin / Moaraganpin</i>
Mt Cotton .....	<i>Jungalpin / Tungipin</i>
Mud Island .....	<i>Bangamba</i>
Myora Springs .....	<i>Capeembah / Kapembah</i>
North Stradbroke Island .....	<i>Minjerribah / Terangeri</i>
Peel Island .....	<i>Jecroobai</i>
Point Lookout .....	<i>Moodloomba / Mooloomba</i>
Point Lookout, North Stradbroke Island [north end] .....	<i>Mooloomba / Terangeri</i>
Redland Bay .....	<i>Talwalpin</i>
Russell Island .....	<i>Canaipa</i>
South Stradbroke Island .....	<i>Curralee / Garaji</i>
St Helena .....	<i>No-gun / Nugoon</i>
Tingalpa .....	<i>Tingal / Tangulba / Tangul / Dinggalba</i>
Victoria Point .....	<i>Warrer warrer</i>
Wellington Point .....	<i>Culler-cullen</i>
Wynnum .....	<i>Winnam / Winam / Winim / Wynyem</i>

Further reading and references: [http://www.siq.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/225674/SIQ\\_PlaceNames.pdf](http://www.siq.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/225674/SIQ_PlaceNames.pdf) P. Benstead, Aboriginal place names, 1923-1924, Myora, pp. 5-7, item ID 480478. [http://quandamooka.toadshow.com.au/02\\_PEOPLE/quandamooka\\_places.htm](http://quandamooka.toadshow.com.au/02_PEOPLE/quandamooka_places.htm). [http://www.brisbanehistory.com/aboriginal\\_place\\_names.html](http://www.brisbanehistory.com/aboriginal_place_names.html) J. G. Steele - Aboriginal Pathways in Southeast Queensland and the Richmond River, University of Queensland Press, St. Lucia, 1984, pp. 97-120