

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY 2022
14th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME – 3 JULY 2022



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday
Sunday, 3 July 2022 | www.natsicc.org.au



We acknowledge the Turrbal people,
the traditional custodians on whose land we worship
Parish of St. Joseph & St. Anthony

OPENING MASS OF THE PLENARY COUNCIL

Tonight, in Sydney, the opening Mass of the Plenary Council is celebrated, today being National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday.

This second Plenary Council gathering continues on from last year's first meeting. For the last four weeks in our parish, the Sunday homilies have been about the Sunday Readings and the Plenary Motions and Statements.

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/motions-and-voting/>

Let us now pause and pray for the Plenary and all the delegates to it.

[pause and pray]

FOUR PARISH PLENARY HOMILIES

The four parish Plenary homilies are at:

The Plenary & First Nations Peoples - 26 June 2022

<https://bit.ly/Homily26062022>

Plenary, Governance & Formation - 19 June 2022

<https://bit.ly/Homily19062022>

The Plenary Council & The Holy Spirit - 12 June 2022

<https://bit.ly/Homily12062022>

The Holy Spirit & Changes in the Australian Church in 2022 - 5 June 2022

<https://bit.ly/Homily05062022>

All are invited to send messages of prayerful support to the Plenary delegates at:

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/prayer/>

Plenary updates will be found at:

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/in-the-media/>

RETURNING TO COUNTRY IN TODAY'S FIRST READING

As we ponder today's 1st Reading from Isaiah, the passage is written post exile.

Imagine the deep joy of the Jewish people who had survived a long captivity of suffering and were able to return home.

Jerusalem became their centre once more.

Home among their religious traditions and the sacred places where they celebrated their love of God.

Imagine an Aboriginal community returning to their sacred land,

- rejoicing in their identity, their oneness with mother earth.
- Mother earth that nourishes and sustains them.
- Being one again with the features of the land with its Dreaming.
- Continuing their culture over 65,000 years
- Remembering their ancestors in Song and Dance and Art.
- Returning to the centre of their spirituality.
- Proclaiming their own language name for God who created them.

This national Sunday, let us read today's joyful First Reading from Isaiah with its beautiful images. We read from the New Revised Standard Version.

We read of the wonder, the joy, the love, the delight, the beauty.
And God comforting them: *'As a mother comforts her child'*.

ISAIAH 66:10-14

'Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her— that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast; that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious bosom. For thus says the Lord: I will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm, and dandled on her knees. As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bodies shall flourish like the grass; and it shall be known that the hand of the Lord is with his servants'

GALATIANS 6:14-18

On this national day, we also ponder St Paul's message about the cross to the Galatians.

'May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything!

As for those who will follow this rule— peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on, let no one make trouble for me;

for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.'

We listen to the pain and anguish in the Indigenous stories of life well over 200 years.
And the need for Truth-telling and Reconciliation.
And we ponder how the world has been crucified to them,
and they have been crucified to the world.

We repeat once more the words of St Paul:
*'the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.'*

In our parishes, we are invited humbly to listen to First Nations Elders as they share their love
for Jesus and the stories of the Cross in their lives.
And we ponder how each of us is crucified to the world, and the world to us.

A context for St Paul's reference to the cross in the Letter to the Galatians, is available on our
parish website -
SOCIAL JUSTICE & THE CROSS. REFLECTION 2 – LIBERATION & THE CROSS, September 16, 2021
<http://bit.ly/ReflectionTwo16092021>

GOSPEL OF LUKE 10:1-9

In today's shorter Gospel passage, we hear:
*'After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every
town and place where he himself intended to go.*

He said to them,
*'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few;
therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.
Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves.
Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.
Whatever house you enter, first say,
"Peace to this house!"
And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person;
but if not, it will return to you.
Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer
deserves to be paid.
Do not move about from house to house.
Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure
the sick who are there, and say to them,
"The kingdom of God has come near to you." '*

May the energy of today's Readings uplift the Plenary delegates.
May they listen to the continual promptings of Holy Spirit and produce the fruit of the Holy
Spirit.

In two weeks, on July 16th, having returned from the Plenary, Bishop Ken will lead us in our
parish celebration of the Saturday evening Mass.
Clint McGoldrick will be instituted as an Acolyte during the Mass.
We continue as a parish community to accompany Clint in prayer.

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN GROUP

Our parish mission includes the work and inspiration of our reconciliation action plan group. Thank you to its members - David, Cynthia, Clint, Jess, Anita, Renae, Kevin and Michael.

Our mission includes the wonderful message in today's Gospel

"The kingdom of God has come near to you."

We pray for the peace of Jesus to dwell within us, as we look humbly for new ways of sharing the Good News and proclaiming the Kingdom of God.

We pray for a sense of wonder and humility.

Let us pray.

Father Gerry

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/070322.cfm>



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photograph taken after 7.30am Mass: Father Gerry Hefferan and Uncle David Miller (NATSICC)