

Kathryn Turner is a member of both our Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Council and today Kathryn reflected on National Reconciliation Week at 9.30am Mass, 30 May 2021.  
Fr Gerry

### Reconciliation Action Week

Jesus stressed to us that the first 2 commandments are the most important – Love of God and love of our neighbor. How great a world would it be if we all followed just these 2.

This week is reconciliation action week and offers us all an opportunity for us all to really live the first 2 commandments.

Reconciliation Australia's theme for 2021, ***More than a word. Reconciliation takes action***, urges the reconciliation movement towards braver and more impactful action. 2021 marks twenty years of Reconciliation Australia and almost three decades of Australia's formal reconciliation process.

To our new supporters, please remember the importance of privileging and amplifying First Nations' voices as you add your voice to calls for reconciliation and justice.

Reconciliation is a journey for all Australians – as individuals, families, communities, organisations and importantly as a nation. At the heart of this journey are relationships between the broader Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We all have a role to play when it comes to reconciliation, and in playing our part we collectively build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories, cultures, and futures.

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

The dates for NRW remain the same each year; 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey— the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision, respectively.

Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds, and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



*Kathryn standing beside the Acknowledgement of Country plaque*

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) started as the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation in 1993 (the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples) and was supported by Australia's major faith communities. In 1996, the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation launched Australia's first NRW. In 2000, Reconciliation Australia was established to continue to provide national leadership on reconciliation. In the same year, approximately 300,000 people walked across Sydney Harbour Bridge as part of NRW, to show their support for reconciliation.

Today, NRW is celebrated by businesses, schools and early learning services, organisations, and individuals Australia-wide. Hundreds of NRW events are held each year. You can find an event near you or register your own.

One of the ways we act in reconciliation is our Reconciliation Action Plan.

### **What is a RAP?**

A Reconciliation Action Plan is a strategic document with practical actions that drives an organisation's contribution to reconciliation both internally and in the communities in which it operates.

### **Why does the Archdiocese of Brisbane have a RAP?**

Reconciliation, one of the seven sacraments of our faith, provides a foundation to guide us in our journey of reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Like the Sacrament of Reconciliation, it is about the call to repentance after a process of conversion of heart. We can do this by formally undertaking a few actions (outlined in the RAP) to build on the works of the Church in her relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our Archdiocese. As a Christian people, we are called to forge the path of healing between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians.

### **Who is this RAP for?**

This RAP is for the Archdiocese of Brisbane as a whole – for all its agencies, parishes, and communities. All are invited to read, absorb, and implement the RAP in their own setting.

Link to NRW - <https://nrw.reconciliation.org.au/>

Archdiocese of Brisbane RAP - <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/life/reconciliation-action-plan>

Kathryn

