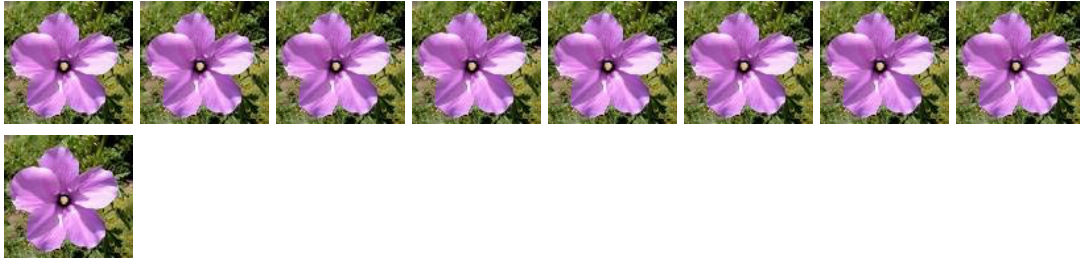


PRAYER National Sorry Day – 26 May



Today (26 May) is National Sorry Day, which also heralds the beginning of National Reconciliation Week. The native hibiscus is the national symbol of the Stolen Generations because it grows across Australia and is resilient and hardy.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians the Jaara/ Dja Dja Wurrung people who have cared for this land for thousands of years. We also acknowledge their descendants who maintain spiritual connections and traditions.

Let us reflect together, before we pray, on the millions of footprints that have travelled the Dreaming pathways and our own loved ones who have gone before us.

Sign of the Cross

Opening Prayer:

Let us pray, God of Justice,

We come to seek your guidance, wisdom and compassion

As we pray for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have been wronged in the past.

May our hearts be open to receive your healing grace,

So that we in turn bring healing to each other.

We ask this prayer through Christ, our Lord,

All: AMEN

Reading: Matthew 5:3-11

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Reader:

Friday 26 May 2017 marks a significant event for all Australians as it is the 25th anniversary of the Bringing Them Home Report and National Sorry Day.

Today we focus on the healing dimension of reconciliation and remember the suffering of the Stolen Generations. We recognise that true healing starts by making amends, not in isolation, but by all Australians coming together in compassion and love.

Today unite as we pray to God, who will heal wounds, and free us to love and show compassion, justice and peace to all.

Leader: I invite you to write your own thoughts and prayers onto the healing hands. These will be placed in the sacred space.

Together we pray the Lord's Prayer

Leader: Let us turn to God in prayer for what we need to be true followers of Jesus

Reader 1: God of justice,

We pray that all Australians recognise the hurts of the past that have been inflicted on our Indigenous brothers and sisters. May we learn from our mistakes and act with justice and compassion as we work towards equality and justice for all people. For this we pray.....

ALL: In unity, God hear our prayer.

Reader 2: God of comfort,

We pray for reconciliation and compassion and the grace to move forward together in peace. For this we pray....

ALL: In unity, God hear our prayer.

Reader 3: God of fairness,

We pray that Australians act with fairness and justice towards Indigenous Australians. May we bring comfort to those who are suffering and healing love to those whose lives have been shattered broken.

For this we pray.....

ALL: In unity, God hear our prayer.

Reader 4: God of community,

We pray for the human community: that we will continue to nurture our relationships with you, our Creator God, with one another and with all creation. For this we pray....

ALL: In unity, God hear our prayer.

Reader 5: God of reconciliation and mercy,

We pray for ourselves as followers of Jesus: that we will build reconciling and inclusive communities to which people are drawn and have a strong sense of belonging.

For this we pray....

ALL: In unity, God hear our prayer.

Reader 6: God of the marginalised,

We pray for all Christians: that we will cultivate a deep awareness of, and commitment to, social justice and social welfare by hearing and answering the cry of the poor and outcast in our local communities.

For this we pray.....

ALL: In unity, God hear our prayer.

Concluding Prayer

Leader: Loving God, You who created all people in your image and likeness, May we listen with care to all people of this land and treat all with respect. Source of all creation and unity, bless us in our endeavours to live as one in Christ.

ALL: Amen.

May you our God of justice, give us the strength and courage to transform the world according to the vision of Jesus.

ALL: Amen.

May you our God, model of community and equality, inspire us to bring harmony and a new vision of reconciliation to all.

ALL: Amen.

And may Almighty God bless us, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.



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