



**Parish Liturgy Committee notes for the celebration of
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday in the Archdiocese of Perth
Sunday the 1st of July 2018**

Below are a series of **suggestions approved by Archbishop Costelloe** that could be incorporated into the celebration of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday Mass in your parish.

These liturgy notes should be read in conjunction with the NATSICC Because of Her, We Can Resources! <http://www.natsicc.org.au/2018-aboriginal-and-islander-sunday.html>

It may be appropriate to take on one or two of the **suggestions below** for this celebration with a view to continuing this practice occasionally in your Sunday Masses as we strive as a Christian community to build bridges with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Australia and recognise them as the first stewards of this land.

Setting up a Liturgical Space/Display

See NATSICC 2018 Resources for more information

Prior to Mass

A Welcome to Country or an Acknowledgment of Country would happen before the Mass begins and incorporated into the Introduction of the Mass. See information below.

- A **Welcome to Country** is a protocol where Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners welcome others to the land of their ancestors. As these elders are sharing culture knowledge, time and information, many will have a fee for a public Welcome to Country. Ensure you ask this when you first make contact.
A list of contacts for Welcome to Country can be obtained from the ACM Office.
- The **Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Elders** differs from a Welcome to Country in that it can be delivered by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. This practice demonstrates respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and recognises the importance of acknowledging Traditional Owners of the land and/or sea.

Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners produced by NATSICC and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Australia [Pamphlet attached]



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- Suggested wording for an acknowledgment of traditional owners- *Good morning/evening it is wonderful to see that you all here at our Mass this (Liturgical Season). Before we begin we acknowledge that we are worshipping this morning on the Sacred ground of the Wadjuk/Swan River people of the Noongar Nation and we pay respect to elders both past, present and future. We acknowledge that the relationship between Aboriginal people and the Church is a complex one but we as a community strive to follow in Christ's footsteps towards true reconciliation. All of us here do our best to lives guided by the Holy Spirit who has been present throughout this land in relationships with Aboriginal people for thousands of years.*
- In today's celebration of the Eucharist we are reminded (Information about the Sundays readings). We are called to listen to God, who revealed through Jesus. Please stand and join in the entrance hymn.
Laminated Cards for use in Liturgy and Meetings attached (You will need to print and laminate them)

Music

- All music throughout the celebration could be accompanied by tapping sticks.
- A didgeridoo can also be played by an appropriate person if available.
- The didgeridoo could also be played at the presentation of gifts or at the entrance procession without any other music.
Tapping Sticks can be purchased from various shops including True Blue Australia Fremantle <http://www.truebluegallery.com>

Entrance Procession

- **A decal** of the Art work above can be ordered and sent to you from the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry office(**tel: 93287529**) to be placed on a processional candle for this celebration and be placed in a prayer focus of fabrics using the colours of yellow, black and gold. This would be near the Ambo. The water for the Sprinkling Rite could be placed there before and after the sprinkling as well as the message stick carried up just before the Liturgy of the Word. If you are blessing a plaque to go at the entrance of your church that would also be part of the prayer focus.

Greeting

- The Sign of cross could be in English and the local Aboriginal languages.
- Responses in Noongar Language (*the language which is spoken on the country where most of the Archdiocese is located on. However Moora Parish and Kalgoorlie Parish need to be aware of the language on which these Parish communities celebrate on and speak to the relevant local Aboriginal leaders and elders on what is the appropriate language to use*)

Father- Yirra Maaman



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Son- Ngank
Holy- Kwobadak
Spirit- Wirn

Yirra Maaman, Ngank, Kwobadak, Wirn

[If you need help with pronunciation ask an Aboriginal person in your community, visit the ACM website http://acm.perthcatholic.org.au/?page_id=87 or contact the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Office tel: 93287529]



The Sprinkling Rite could be used.

- **Introduction to the Sprinkling Rite**

Water to Aboriginal people, and to all of us, is always a sign of God's peace and fulfilment in everything that is good; the promise of food, of God's love, and protection, and a sign of the new life in Christ, which in Baptism we have all received.'

Parish Bulletin Note

In Aboriginal Spirituality water is very significant. It is customary in some areas When Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people gather for important ceremonies to use water as it is symbol of the earth and a symbol of life a symbol of eternal life.

Liturgy of the Word

- A **message stick** could be carried up just before the readings begin to the sound of tapping sticks and placed in a prayer focus near the Ambo. No words would be used as the action takes place. Once the message stick is in place the tapping sticks stop and the reader moves to the Ambo and begins the first reading.
- **Parish Bulletin Note**
In Aboriginal communities, the message stick is a communication tool, a symbol of the story contained in words such as faith, culture, healing, reconciliation, living the mercy and justice of God by passing it onto others. The message stick, we are using today has been given to us from the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Perth, in the spirit of reconciliation where we come together in Christ to learn about each other's culture in communion with Christ.

Message Stick Order Forms can be found on the Aboriginal Catholic Community Archdiocese of Perth website http://acm.perthcatholic.org.au/?page_id=87 and attached to this email

Prayers of the Faithful



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- Material will be contained within the NATSICC Aboriginal Sunday Resource that will contain examples of Prayers of the Faithful that can be used.
- Responses in Noongar Language (*the language which is spoken on the country where most of the Archdiocese is located on. However Moora Parish and Kalgoorlie Parish need to be aware of the language on which these Parish communities celebrate on and speak to the relevant local Aboriginal leaders and elders on what is the appropriate language to use*)

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER:

Lord Hear Our Prayer- Yirra Birdiah dwangkiny ngaala waankiny

[If you need help with pronunciation ask an Aboriginal person in your community or contact the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Office tel: 93287529]

Liturgy of the Eucharist

- Tapping/Clapping sticks could be used at the elevation of the Body and Blood of Christ.

Our Father

- Once off permission is given for the use of the Aboriginal Our Father on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday and is included in the NATSICC Material.

[The text and cords to the Aboriginal Our Father can be obtained from the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Office and are included in the NATSICC Aboriginal Sunday Resources tel: 93287529]

Blessing of Acknowledgement Plaque

- This plaque would be placed at the entrance of the Church.

Blessing

*God of all goodness,
bless this plaque [sprinkling of Holy water from the bowl of water blessed at the beginning of Mass]*

*which will be a constant reminder to our community that it is our
aboriginal community who were the first to
to walk and nurture this country Australia for you.*

We make this pray in Jesus name.



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The final Blessing of the people now takes place.

- The plaque is carried out in the entrance procession and placed in the spot that it will be which would have already been decided before the Mass.
- The plaques are small 15cm x 7cm and have an adhesive back and can be ordered through ACM Office or by ordering through NATSICC online store <http://www.natsicc.org.au/online-store.html>
- If Parish's wish to purchase larger wooden plaques they can organise to have them produced with the chosen design and language from the Parish at a printing company. You can contact ACM for suggestions of places that they have used.

Video After Mass

At the end of Mass the Parish may like to play the ACM Reconciliation video, which contains Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Catholic speaking about Reconciliation.

<http://acm.perthcatholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/ACM-What-is-reconciliation-SHORT-VIDEO.mp4? =2>



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