

NAIDOC Week Reflection – Day 1



Reflection

Let us acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of the First Nations Peoples to this Country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

In NAIDOC week, we are invited to consider an eternal theme of this land: **Heal Country!** All of us are called to continue to seek greater protections for our lands, our waters, our sacred sites and our cultural heritage from exploitation, desecration, and destruction.

Today, we acknowledge that these lands, waterways and seas always have been, are, and will always be lands, seas and waterways of the First Nations peoples. We commit to In walking with and learning from the elders of these places ¹²

Prayer

God of all wonder,

We pause in the busyness of our days to listen deeply to the wisdom of this land and those who belong to it. May our minds be open to dialogue. May our hearts be open to transformation and may our hands do the work of reconciliation. We ask that the Spirit accompany us on our journey of healing on these lands, seas and waterways. We also ask the Spirit of peace be with all those who are living a life of fear, dispossession, and distress.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus our brother and friend.

Amen. ³

Leader:	Our Lady of the Presentation	All: Pray for Us.
Leader:	Venerable Nano Nagle	All: Pray for Us.
Leader:	Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop	All: Pray for Us.

¹ Adapted from: <https://www.naidoc.org.au/news/2021-naidoc-week-theme-announced-heal-country>

² Adapted from <https://www.cns.catholic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/NAIDOC-Week-for-Parents-2020.pdf>

³ <https://www.cns.catholic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/NAIDOC-Week-for-Parents-2020.pdf>

NAIDOC Week Reflection - Day 2



Reflection

Senior Australian of the Year in 2021 and Catholic, Dr Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr, stresses the importance of deep listening as a journey towards reconciliation and healing. Miriam's explanation of "Dadirri"; an inner, deep listening, and quiet, still awareness is as follows:

- "Dadirri recognises the deep spring that is inside us. We call on it and it calls to us. This is the gift that Australia is thirsting for. It is something like what you call "contemplation".
- "When I experience dadirri, I am made whole again. I can sit on the riverbank or walk through the trees; even if someone close to me has passed away, I can find my peace in this silent awareness. There is no need of words. A big part of dadirri is listening."
- "Our Aboriginal culture has taught us to be still and to wait...We wait on God, too. His time is the right time. We wait for him to make his Word clear to us. We don't worry. We know that in time and in the spirit of dadirri (that deep listening and quiet stillness) his way will be clear. We hope that the people of Australia will wait. Not so much waiting for us - to catch up - but waiting with us, as we find our pace in this world."⁴

Let us now join in an experience of Dadirri with Miriam now.

Prayer

Dadirri [3 minutes, 42 seconds]

Click [here](#) to access the video.

Leader: Our Lady of the Presentation
Leader: Venerable Nano Nagle
Leader: Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop

All: Pray for Us.
All: Pray for Us.
All: Pray for Us.

⁴ <https://www.miriamrosefoundation.org.au/about-dadirri/dadirri-film>

NAIDOC Week Reflection – Day 3



Reflection

As we reflect during NAIDOC Week and the theme ‘Heal Country’, we also consider the spiritual connection to creation and country for Aboriginal People. The starting point for Aboriginal Spirituality is creation. Creation narratives describe a period of intense creativity that contains the blueprint for all life: there was a period of dark, featureless matter from which the first ancestral beings emerged. The first Ancestral Spirits took shape and appearance of humans and animals, who moved across the landscapes creating the entire natural world. After this period, the ancestral spirits remained in the land and co-existed with the first people whom they brought into being: they assumed the identity of numinous, totemic spirits. With the spirits being responsible for the shaping of creation and animation of all life, the first people inherited the maintenance of creation: the creative spirits are the true landowners, and humans are the trustees, responsible to the creative spirits for the stewardship of the land.⁵

Prayer

God of all creation, as we journey together in this Great Southern Land,
We pray for healing, forgiveness, and unity,
creating a path of good will, with justice and compassion.
Jesus, through the power of your love,
You have given us the courage, wisdom, and strength
To share our gifts and talents in humility.
In peace and understanding we reconcile with each other.
Creator Spirit, we come together in prayer and thanksgiving
For the many blessings we have received.
Allow your Spirit to wash over us and give us strength to walk together as one Amen.⁶

Leader:	Our Lady of the Presentation	All: Pray for Us.
Leader:	Venerable Nano Nagle	All: Pray for Us.
Leader:	Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop	All: Pray for Us.

⁵ Adapted from http://natsicc.org.au/assets/2020web_version.pdf

⁶ <https://www.cns.catholic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/NAIDOC-Week-for-Parents-2020.pdf>

NAIDOC Week Reflection – Day 4



Prayer – Jubilee Prayer and Statement of Commitment

Father our Creator

You created all things, seen and unseen,

Listen to my silent prayer as I stand here before you. As my weary eyes look back over distant horizons, back to those days where my people walked.

The footprints of my grandfathers are imprinted on the earth
and their images become real to me.

I see my Grandfathers standing tall and strong, warriors of long ago.

I hear them singing, I see them dancing, and my spirit moves within me.

They told me of the emus fighting, picking the scent of our hunters. The images fade away as
I feel the hurt of my people.

I can hear the cries of my Grandmothers as they cry for their children. Grandfather, You can
see me as I stand here and feel this hurt.

Father Creator, is this the purpose of my being here?

Or is it your plan to reshape my people to be once again the proud race it once was?

Let me walk with you and my Grandfathers towards the dawning
of a proud and new nation.

I thank you for my Sacred Being.

Amen. ⁷

Leader: Our Lady of the Presentation

All: Pray for Us.

Leader: Venerable Nano Nagle

All: Pray for Us.

Leader: Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop

All: Pray for Us.

⁷ http://natsicc.org.au/assets/2020web_version.pdf

NAIDOC Week Reflection - Day 5



Prayer of Acknowledgement

Let us now place ourselves in the presence of God.

Holy Spirit, we invoke your blessing on this country and on us as we gather today.

We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Elders of this place, both past and present, and the continued cultural and spiritual connection to the lands and waters.

We also acknowledge that our forbearers came into these sacred spaces, changing forever an older way of life.

Bless our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters and bless us.

Help us to join our hands and hearts together. Help us to heal one another and the land, so that our lives may flow with harmony and that we may live with love and deep respect.

Amen. ⁸

Leader: Our Lady of the Presentation
Leader: Venerable Nano Nagle
Leader: Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop

All: Pray for Us.
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⁸ http://mavs.vinnies.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-OF-COUNTRY-AND-PRAYER_A4_FIN-2.pdf