

Thu 20 February 2014



Introduction: Raising Cultural Awareness within parishes can be tricky - after all, where does one begin?? The following strategies aim to facilitate a more informed congregation about the local Indigenous community and their heritage. They have been designed for enjoyment, while parishioners grow in knowledge and confidence. In addition, they are also meant to raise awareness on the issues that are important to Indigenous Australians. These include -

- The National Campaign of 'Closing the Gap'
- National Reconciliation; and
- Recognizing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our Constitution

You will find articles and/or reports on these issues on the diocesan web. However we also encourage you (and all involved in ministry within your parish), to complete the diocese's Cultural Competency Training (See Archdeacon Karen Kime to enrol). It will equip you to minister to; and pastor to, Aboriginal people and their families.

Tips for Awareness Raising – Enjoy!

Jump on board the 'Closing the Gap' campaign within our diocese. Send the collections from Reconciliation Sunday (1st June) to the Indigenous Ministries Trust Fund. See the diocesan web for more information re: Closing the Gap.

Learn to do an 'Acknowledgement to Country' and deliver at the commencement of Reconciliation Sunday (1st June) or every Sunday till the end of NAIDOC Week (6-13 July). (See the Diocesan protocols for Acknowledgement and/or Welcome to Country)

Invite an Elder to do a 'Welcome to Country' on Reconciliation Sunday (1st June) and host a morning tea or BBQ with other Aboriginal community members and the congregation following the service.

Include Indigenous prayers within worship. Go to the National Council of Churches at <http://www.ncca.org.au/departments/natsiec/resources/prayer/509-week-of-prayer-for-reconciliation> Suitable prayers can also be found in the Australian and New Zealand Prayer Books as well as the following links

http://www.stmarys.qld.edu.au/indigenous_prayers.htm

http://salvos.org.au/scribe/sites/children/files/SAGALA/Missionary%20Project/Aboriginal_Prayers.pdf

Promote the activities within your Aboriginal community during Reconciliation or NAIDOC week. Offer your time as a volunteer for one of the events and participate with other parish members.

Invite an Indigenous musician to play and/or make use of Indigenous recorded music during worship (see Indigenous singer Geoffrey Yunupingu at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DgRCBN9nyzl>)

Form a working group to explore the cultural heritage of Aboriginal people in your local area; have them share what they have learnt with the Archdeacon of Indigenous Ministries and the congregation. (Resources : Local Aboriginal Land Councils, Elders and Community Leaders, National Parks and Wildlife Officers, Land and Water Conservation, etc.)

Learn to say 'peace be with you' in the local language and encourage the congregation to use this for a time.

Invite the Archdeacon for Indigenous Ministries to speak to a parish study group on Aboriginal spirituality

Promote and gather people within your parish to attend Cultural Competency training, so as to better equip your parish to 'reach out' to Aboriginal people. Then begin planning and making contacts to do one 'outreach activity' in your local Indigenous community in the coming year.

Include some bush tucker in your morning tea – ask local Aboriginal people about recipes and/or go to Mark Olive's (Indigenous Chef) for ideas <http://www.lifestylefood.com.au/chefs/markolive/> or purchase his book 'The Outback Cafe' for ongoing use.

Invite the Archdeacon for Indigenous Ministries and/or an Indigenous clergy to preach

Purchase the Aboriginal flag (see: <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/fastfacts/aboriginalflag.html>) and fly it during Reconciliation week and other special Indigenous occasions throughout the year. See <http://www.healthinonet.ecu.edu.au/about/news/1789> for significant dates and cultural events. Invite local Aboriginal members to raise the flag, followed by a morning tea.

Purchase a T Shirt or cap with the Aboriginal flag emblem, encourage clergy and lay ministers to wear them throughout Reconciliation Week. They can be obtained cheaply at <http://www.kullillaart.com.au/default.asp?PageID=347>

Plant some ornamental bush food, for instance a Lilli Pilli tree and learn about the local bush food, medicines and other useful plants that were commonly used by Aboriginal people in your area

Use positive analogies relating to Indigenous people within your sermon for a month and include these in your pew sheets as 'special items'

Purchase some Aboriginal artwork (posters, paintings, etc) and display within the church, office and/or hall

Research the parish's historical relationship with Indigenous people in your area, using local archives, news clippings, and Aboriginal community members.

Obtain 2014 National Reconciliation Week posters and display throughout the church grounds and ministries

Make contact with a local Aboriginal organisation and/or Aboriginal community workers in your area. Get to know them. (Archdeacon Karen Kime may be able to assist you with this)

Host a `movie night` and show the film `The Sapphires`. Discuss the issues it reveals.

Commence a weekly discussion group between Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC week focusing on the meaning of Reconciliation – invite guest speakers.

Learn all you can about the movement to Recognize Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Australian Constitution. Read the message on the diocesan web and get your parish involved. Purchase and wear the `R` badge. For more information go to <http://www.recognise.org.au/>

Go on to the National Reconciliation web site for further ideas and resources. Register your activity to celebrate Reconciliation Week and become a `Reconciliation Ambassador`.

<http://www.reconciliation.org.au/nrw>

Inform the diocese and take photos of your awareness raising activities, so that we can celebrate it!!!

Resources: Most information and many resources can be found on the web. However, for further information and/or assistance, contact Archdeacon Karen Kime at : Karen.kime@anglicare.com or 0419 249 184

By [Archdeacon Karen Kime](#)