

# Ten steps towards reconciliation

## 1. Learn about the Land

Find out who are the first owners of the land on which you live, work and worship. To do this, contact the Aboriginal Land Council in your area, or, better still, buy a map showing the occupation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait nations prior to 1770. Such maps can be obtained from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

## 2. Acknowledgement Plaque

Place a plaque in a prominent position at the entrance to your school, parish house, office or home naming the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people who are the first owners of the land on which you live, work, gather or worship.

## 3. Recognition

Remember to acknowledge the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people who are the first owners of the land on which you are gathered at the beginning of formal occasions such as parish feast days, major feast days, special dinners, Graduation Mass, assemblies, seminars or conferences.

## 4. Fly the Flag

Buy Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island flags to fly or display in liturgical settings on significant occasions such as Aboriginal Sunday, the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation, the Anniversary of the report *Bringing Them Home*.

## 5. Reconciliation Statement

Together with you family, community, co-workers, or students, draw up a statement expressing a formal commitment to the work of reconciliation. This statement could be framed and placed in a prominent place and referred to in mission statements.

## 6. Reconciliation Prayer

Use the reconciliation [prayer card](#) prepared by the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council (ACSJC) in class, at assemblies, before meetings or at family prayer times.

## 7. Celebrate Aboriginal Sunday

Attend a special service for Aboriginal Sunday or organise a special celebration for your parish. Remember to talk to your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community when planning such an event. Liturgical materials for Aboriginal Sunday will be available from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC).

## 8. Listen to 'Stories of the heart, Sounds of the Rock'

*Stories of the Heart, Sounds of the Rock* is a CD produced by Australians for Native Title and Against Racism (ANTAR), Caritas Australia and Catholic Mission which explores through song, statement and historical data the key issues of reconciliation as identified by the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation.

## 9. Thoughts for Homilies and Reflection

In this leaflet you will find some thoughts that may be useful material in the preparation of homilies and reflection times for small and large groups. They are also suitable for inclusion in parish bulletins as reflection pieces.

## **10. Practical Solidarity**

As a family, school class, or small group, put aside a dollar each Sunday to support the work of your local Aboriginal Catholic Ministry/local Aboriginal organisation, or if there isn't one, use the money to support the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC). This can be a symbolic way of acknowledging our debt to the indigenous community and offering practical support for their initiatives.

