

Prayer for Aboriginal Australians

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We Australians are still coming to terms with the consequences of invasion, settlement and exclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. Among the descendants of the later arrivals is a will for reconciliation, but not if it costs. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians desire recognition that they are the original Australians, but insist that it must be accompanied by measures that give them an assured voice in shaping the policies, laws and administrative regulations that affect their lives.

Andrew Hamilton SJ

I am making myself black, and taking away all that I know except that this is my country, that my father lived by pursuing the emu, the kangaroo, that I have been driven from my hunting grounds, that my children and tribe are subjected to the grossest barbarities...

John Bede Polding to the Parliamentary Committee on Aborigines, 1845.

We turn to our God in hope and trust:

God of love and justice, we pray for our land Australia that all who live here never lose the ancient connection to its first people. We pray:

Walk with us, O God towards peace and reconciliation.

God of love and justice, we pray that our political, religious and community leaders act in the interests of all the people in this land... that they walk the talk of Reconciliation. We pray:

Walk with us, O God towards peace and reconciliation.

God of love and justice, we pray for those who still suffer sadness because of the government policies of the past ... may they be healed by us walking the talk of your Gospel command to love. We pray:

Walk with us, O God towards peace and reconciliation.

God of love and justice, we pray for all those who live in the cities and towns, those who live in the communities, settlements and missions, those on the islands, those in the bush, those who are far from home, those who do not know where home is, those who have been taken from their homes, those in prisons. May they all come to know your compassion and love. We pray:

Walk with us, O God towards peace and reconciliation.

**As you take your next step,
remember the first peoples who walked these lands.**

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Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria > Reconciliation Week (cam1.org.au)