

Week of Prayer for Reconciliation 27 May–3 June 2015



The painting '*Resurrection*' is by Rev Glenn Loughrey who is currently the Priest-in-Charge at St Oswald's Glen Iris, Melbourne. Glenn has slowly reconciled his mixed Irish, English and Indigenous heritage. His art explores what it means to live between two worlds and the possibility of resurrection and reconciliation while living in exile.

Glenn can be contacted on redshoeswalking@bigpond.com and he blogs at redshoeswalking.com

Art from the exile series is found at <http://bit.ly/1QCDvvo> and prints of these works are available for purchase.

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Give thanks for:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clergy and leaders as they minister in urban as well as isolated locations and challenging situations.
- The progress toward Reconciliation in terms of greater awareness and the Constitutional Recognition agenda.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council (NATSIAC) <http://www.natsiac.com/>

- Give thanks for the election (Sept 2014) of a new executive for the next three years: Chair Gloria Shipp, Dep. Chair: John Noah, Secretary Darryl McCullough, Treasurer: Chris McLeod, Executive members: Rose Elu, Salu Blanco, Eddie Shipp, Aimee Harris.
- The ongoing struggle to grow the awareness of the National Church to the challenges and concerns of the First Peoples in Anglican ministries around their country.

Diocese of the Northern Territory

- Give thanks for the appointment of Greg Anderson as Bishop of the Northern Territory. Pray for Greg's leadership skills in the ongoing development of the Diocese and particularly the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ministries.

Nungalinga College

- Praise God for the many Indigenous Christians wishing to study at Nungalinga College and for the 5 courses now being offered.
- Pray for sufficient government funding to allow the College to meet the needs of all these students.
- Pray for the many organisations whose funding has been reduced as part of the restructure to the Indigenous Advancement Strategy and that government will continue to resource essential Indigenous services.

Diocese of North Queensland, Wontulp Bi Buya College

- The Board and staff as they provide leadership, instruction and assistance to the students.
- The start of a new year with enthusiastic students returning to their studies.
- Growth of the financial support base.

Diocese of Brisbane

Give thanks for:

- the first steps in the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan and prayers for its furtherance.
- the first steps in translating parts of the liturgy into Gungarri, the local language, in the western Queensland parish of Maranoa/Warrego.

Pray for:

- the national concerns about proposed closures of communities in Western Australia.
- children in Anglican schools on scholarships from remote Indigenous communities: their health, growth and families in the separation time.

Diocese of Sydney

- Pray for GAWURA School within St Andrew's Cathedral School for students, families, staff, leadership and ongoing generous funding.

Diocese of Armidale

- Pray for the establishment of Hope for Life, teenage pregnancy in Moree.

Diocese of Bathurst

- Pray for the ministries of Gloria Shipp and Darryl McCullough.

Diocese of Adelaide

- Pray for Bp Chris McLeod as he settles into his new role.

Pray for:

- The challenge of Christian ministry throughout Australia and, in particular, in this Week of Prayer for Reconciliation ministry with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Leadership, wisdom and tenacity to continue to drive policies and constitutional change toward recognition.
- The reality of the high suicide rates in Top End communities, as well as the lower life expectancy generally.
- Hope for those who have none, for access to good medical care, and for a growth in understanding in how to live in two cultures.

Significant dates toward Reconciliation

13 February	National Apology (2008)
21 March	National Close the Gap Day (2006)
26 May	National Sorry Day (1997)
27 May–3 June	Week of Prayer (1993) National Reconciliation Week (1996)
3 June	Mabo Day (1992)
1 July	The Coming of the Light Festival
7–14 July	NAIDOC Week (National Aborigines and Islanders' Day Observance Committee (1991))

- Encouragement and resourcing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people to take up opportunities that are available to learn skills to assist their development.
- Pray for the work of Concilia "Respectful peer relationships between Indigenous and Non Indigenous Australians" as "there is a wound in our Nation that needs to be addressed". Pray particularly for the widespread usefulness of the Australians Together resources. Pray for the organisation and look at using the resources in your church.
<http://concilia.org.au/>
<http://www.australianstogether.org.au/>

An additional resource just off the press and in a trial form is available from Mal MacCallum if you are interested. It has been produced by World Vision and Reconciliation Australia and is called 'Walk Alongside: Church Toolkit for Reconciliation.'

For more information about the ABM Reconciliation Program please contact **Mal MacCallum** at **reconciliation@abm.asn.au**