



ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION

Working for Love, Hope & Justice

Friday, April 21, 2017

Resources for National Reconciliation Week

This National Reconciliation Week, let us hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

National Reconciliation Week, 27 May - 3 June, is a vital week in the church's calendar for which ABM has produced free resources.

The Revd Jazz Dow, ABM Missioner said, "The week is an intentional period of time set aside for listening to the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, prayer for reconciliation, education about Australian history and current policies, and for the renewing of our individual and corporate commitment to the task of reconciliation."

Resources are available for free at www.abmission.org/reconciliation and include liturgical resources, bible studies and a feature magazine.

The special National Reconciliation Week edition of Partners magazine will focus on the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians from around the Anglican Church, and the significant gift that these voices offer the national church. In this edition you will find articles that speak of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander theologies, incarceration rates of indigenous peoples, updates from NATSIAC, and an interview with Blake Prize winning artist, Frances Belle Parker, Yaegel woman.

Liturgical resources are available for use in worship during NRW. These resources have been compiled by Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and non-indigenous Anglicans in a spirit of reconciliation and seeking more authentically "Australian" worship resources.

The Revd Glenn Loughrey, a Wiradjuri man, artist and priest-in-charge of St Oswald's Anglican Church in Melbourne has written Bible study resources to help Anglicans engage with the significant week. Glenn uses a powerful combination of art, poetry and story to explore the experience of exile as a means of transforming injustice.

ABM has also designed a poster you may like to use in your church or school during the week and beyond. This poster acknowledges and celebrates the traditional owners of this land and these waters we call Australia and is a reminder of the need for a renewed commitment to reconciliation.

Recently, a group of ABM staff gathered for a retreat at Campfire in the Heart, Alice Springs.

The Revd Jazz Dow, ABM Missioner, said, "During our ABM team retreat in the desert, we acknowledged the need for a renewed listening process in the church, listening to the land and water. Something that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have done for centuries. In this listening we will hear of the kingdom of God, of power reversal, of reconciliation, of the interconnectedness and interdependence of all being. In listening we give recognition. Land is not Terra Incognita, it holds within a story of peoples who have respected it for thousands of years, and who still call for a respect and renewal of the earth."

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The National Reconciliation website highlights that in 2017, we reflect on two significant anniversaries in Australia's reconciliation journey – 50 years since the 1967 referendum, and 25 years since the historic Mabo decision.

It notes, "As we commemorate these significant milestones, we ask all Australians to be a part of the next big steps in our nation's reconciliation journey."

Join ABM and share these reconciliation resources in your communities.

ENDS

Contact Elizabeth Baker, ABM Media Consultant at media@abm.asn.au for more information.

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