

NEW COVID REGULATIONS IN PLACE. PLEASE BE AWARE OF YOUR QR REGISTRATION, SOCIAL DISTANCING, SANITIZING AND COMPULSORY WEARING OF MASKS—HELPING TO KEEP EACH OTHER SAFE WHENEVER WE ARE ABLE TO GO OUT DURING THIS LOCKDOWN.

NO MASSES—DUE TO COVID LOCKDOWN until further notice. Please stay up to date with Government advice.

A CALL TO PRAYER FOR ALL AT THIS TIME.



The poster design uses tiles that were painted by delegates at the 2018 NATSICC Assembly in Perth. Each tile represents a visual representation of Catholic Faith and Culture working together.

Heal Country

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday 4 July 2021
Celebrating the gifts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics



Heal Country

2021 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Sunday 4 July 2021

Every year, Catholics come together across Australia to acknowledge and celebrate the gifts of Australia's First Peoples in the Catholic Church. This year is particularly important following the COVID 19 Pandemic and its impact on the ways in which we interacted and made contact with one another.

For these resources NATSICC has decided to adopt the NAIDOC theme for 2021 – Heal Country. Today our world is in need of healing – environmentally, spiritually and socially. We must all come together as a global community to fight the injustices of inequality, racism and environmental damage. **Please see link below for video's and reflections on Heal Country**

<https://www.natsicc.org.au/2021-atsi-sunday.html#didge>

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION:

Sisters and Brothers, let us pray for the needs of our world, especially the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Peoples during this challenging time. Let us pray for unity in our community and culture: that the journey towards reconciliation within the Church may encourage each and everyone of us to make reconciliation our story.

May Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Communities and all cultural communities live in God's Spirit of reconciliation in their hearts and minds and help them to embrace the diversity that makes for a richer country and stronger Church.

In faith we ask you Lord to accept our prayers through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Prayer from Natsicc resources—Heal Country

Please pray for all those who are sick in our community.

Grace Perry, Karen Gulliksen, Harry Beasley, Maddison Farrugia, Leone Kirton Vicki Wells, Mark Simmonds, Max Scott, Anita Glynn, Libby Lawson, Paul Dalton, Shirley Coburn, Michelle Gardam, Jacqui Walker, Mary Berkout, Patricia Knoke, Brian Payne, Mervin McCaster, Marie Mahoney, Jeffrey Ridley, Michael Mercieca, Carmen Smith, Beryl Page, Frances Payne, Gregory Clare, Judy Chesters, Emma Woods, Brian O'Hara, Bruce Gillett, Ray Dukes, Barbara Grant, Mavis Thompson, Laurie Doohan, Nathalie Dhyon, Mike Sayer, Terry Simpkin, Nicole Unsal, Debra Gleeson, Paul Ziberras, Ken Ridley, Joseph Stipich, Joyce Dukes, Tyler Kennedy, Catalina Labra—Knox, Teresa & Larry Dunn, Graham and Christine Hall, Lorraine Lindsay, Maria Chircop, Nerida Fabri, Graeme Hardy, Lynette Hill, Frances Grove, Jennifer Stonehouse & Peter Graham.



What does the LORD require of you but to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God. MICAH 6:8

PARISH TEAM

Fr. Michael G. Gathuku
Parish Administrator

George Bryan
Deacon

Christine Rannaste
Parish Co-ordinator.

Michele Norbury
Parish Secretary

John Cowen
Parish Pastoral Council
Chairperson.

Jim Prendergast
Parish Finance
Chairperson

Donna McFadzean
Our Lady of the Way
Principal 4777 7200

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Penola Catholic College
Principal 4728 8100

Parish Account details:

For online banking only!!!!

**EMU PLAINS
CATHOLIC CHURCH.
BSB 067 950
A/c No. 00000289.**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!

These times of Covid lockdowns can be very stressful for us all. If you have any need at all, your Parish community is here and willing to help in whatever way possible. Contact 4735 1041.

MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH

Due to the spread of Covid-19 in our state we are braced again with a lockdown. Our churches are shut down once again and we are left stranded, our big question is when will all this be over? Will we ever be back to our normal life? We are unsure of our tomorrow for sure, but we should not be unsure of who oversees our tomorrow, namely God.

July 4th this year the NATSICC (The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council) have invited us to celebrate The Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander Catholic Sunday, as we celebrate the gift of these first Australians in our country let us pray as a community to be strengthened by the grace of God to continue soldiering on despite the pandemic and the lockdown. The theme of The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council this year is "Heal Country", may we be united in God's love and care, may we contemplate the life we live and open our hearts to experience the love and healing of God in our families and society while we are locked in at our homes. These are very difficult times for most of us, the pandemic has certainly cast a great deal of doubt and fear into our lives.

One thing that we need to do is to care for one another. We all need care some more than others. The term social distance has become synonymous with our time but let us be reminded that social distance is not relational distance. Social distance is necessary due to the virus, relational distance is not. In fact, we should have no distance in our relationships. Let us seize this opportunity to check on our neighbor (phone call and ask that magic question, **how are you?**) let us build a relational bridge when virus wants to create a social trench. During this time of the lockdown, though separated let us stick together, let us show who we are by caring for each other.

The Christian Church is called to sacrificial care for the vulnerable, because, as Scripture says, Christ died because of His love for us, He sacrificed His life so that we can have life. We too should make a sacrifice for our brothers and sisters. Bible's teachings do not leave us to decide who to care for, we care for all who are in need. The parable of the Good Samaritan unpacks how we are to love and care for even those we might otherwise see as our cultural enemies.

During this NATSICC week, and during the pandemic, the gospel challenges us to serve the hurting so that we may experience God's love and healing and heal our Country.

As we enter this second week of lockdown, let us not get into despair, we should remember that man's extremity which we might be finding ourselves in, is God's opportunity. Our weakness and our limitation in understanding should not call us to despair, but for faith in the power and grace of Christ.

What Jesus tell's Paul in our second reading of this Sunday, he tells us too, namely **My grace is sufficient for you and my power is manifested in weakness**.

Jesus will give us a strength that is greater than the problem we are facing during this time of the lockdown .

With God's blessing Fr. Michael Gitau