

**SUNDAY REFLECTION – 7<sup>th</sup> JULY 2019****14th Sunday of ORDINARY TIME****GOSPEL: LUKE 10: 1-12, 17-20**

The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to all the towns and places he himself was to visit. He said to them, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.

Start off now, but remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the road. Whatever house you go into, let your first words be, 'Peace to this house!' And if a man of peace lives there, your peace will go and rest on him, if not, it will come back to you. Stay in the same house, taking what food and drink they have to offer, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not move from house to house. Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome, eat what is set before you. Cure those in it who are sick, and say, 'The kingdom of God is very near to you.'" But whenever you enter a town and they do not make you welcome, go out into its streets and say, 'We wipe off the very dust of your town that clings to our feet, and leave it with you. Yet be sure of the kingdom of God is very near.' I tell you, that on that day it will not go as hard with Sodom as with that town.'

The seventy two came back rejoicing, 'Lord', they said, 'even the devils submit to us when we use your name.' He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Yes, I have given you power to tread underfoot serpents and scorpions and the whole strength of the enemy; nothing shall ever hurt you. Yet do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, rejoice rather that your names are written in heaven.

**REFLECTION** by Paul Gurr JPIC Team  
**CELEBRATING NAIDOC WEEK**

The theme for this Sunday's Liturgy is taken from words that Pope John Paul spoke to indigenous peoples. He said that Indigenous peoples of Australia were like a tree that had suffered the ravages of a bushfire, but who had survived the flames and who still had the power to be re-born. **THE TIME FOR RE-BIRTH he said IS NOW.**

We have become much more aware of how much Aboriginal and Islander people suffered through white invasion of their land and islands and we are part of an ongoing movement to address those wrongs and hope to create a new experience.

The Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass says "Father, in the rising of your Son, death gives birth to new life. The sufferings he endured restored hope to a fallen world". The message of the Lord Jesus, following his death and resurrection offers special encouragement to indigenous people to seek a rebirth.

It also offers to the whole Church community an incentive to support that rebirth. If society in general, acting out of great misuse of power and racism, has disempowered indigenous people and abused their rights, then the power of Christ can change what may seem hopeless into a new birth – a new understanding of the place of indigenous people in Australian society.

"The two lungs of the Church in Australia are Indigenous and non-Indigenous being constantly filled by the Holy Spirit breathing the eternal newness of the Gospel."

**The Gospel of Mark** presents the incident of where Jesus is rejected because he is known within the community. “Where did this man get this knowledge from?” Isn’t he just the son of a carpenter and Mary? And they would not accept him. Jesus said; “a prophet is only rejected in his own country”. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

**Like Jesus, indigenous people** have not been accepted in their own country. They have been in Australia and some surrounding islands for at least 40,000 years. They were invaded by white settlers who mistakenly claimed the land for the British Empire. It has been clearly established that it was not “terra nullius”. Also, Aborigines have lived here for many thousands of years. Yet they are still having to fight for their rights, still asking for recognition in Australia today. Like Jesus, they are prophets despised in their own country.

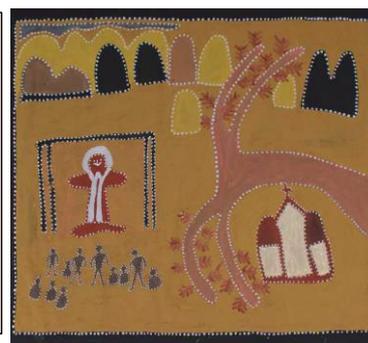
**The Good News of Christ** continually renews the life and culture of human nature. The Good News of Christ combats and removes the evil which flows from the ever-present attraction of sin. It calls us to take the spiritual qualities and endowments of every age and every nation and cause them to blossom, as it were, from within; it fortifies, completes and restores them in Christ.

**“The Time for Re-Birth is Now!”** Pope John Paul said. It is a call, today and every day, to open our hearts and minds to God and invite the Holy Spirit to change us that our way of living be that of peace, unity and reconciliation with God and one another.

#### PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION

*God of all creation,  
as we journey together in this Great Southern Land,  
we pray for healing, forgiveness and unity, creating a path of good will, with justice and compassion.  
Jesus, through the power of your love,  
you have given us the courage, wisdom and strength to share our gifts and talents in humility.  
In peace and understanding we reconcile with each other.  
Creator Spirit, we come together in prayer and thanksgiving for the many blessings we have received.  
Allow your Spirit to wash over us and give us strength to walk together as one. Amen.*

**PEACE TO  
THIS HOUSE  
AND ALL  
WHO  
DWELL  
WITHIN**



2019 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday Resources **Sunday 7 July 2019**  
[http://www.natsicc.org.au/assets/final\\_web2019.pdf](http://www.natsicc.org.au/assets/final_web2019.pdf)

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- ✚ We pray that Pope Francis and all Church leaders will witness to Christ the good Shepherd who laid down his life for his sheep. May they stand firm in the teachings of Christ and strong in proclaiming the Gospel. **Lord, hear us. R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
- ✚ We pray for our young people whose innocence and inquiring minds speak of Your promises, that they find the love of Jesus in their lives. **Lord, hear us. R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
- ✚ We pray for the world’s refugees and asylum seekers, driven from their homes by way of war, famine and persecution; that the heart of Nations will be open to provide welcome and shelter to those in need. **Lord, hear us. R: Lord hear our prayer**
- ✚ We pray for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, that they be given the opportunity to develop and use their gifts for the Church. **Lord, hear us. R: Lord hear our prayer.**
- ✚ We pray for all peoples of the earth, that they will work together for peace and harmony in our troubled world. **Lord, hear us. R: Lord hear our prayer**