

Prayer for NAIDOC Week 2019

NAIDOC Week is July 7 to July 14

*This prayer has been adapted from an A Just Cause Prayer Tool

Prayer

God of our past, present, and future, You have been present to this continent from the moment of creation. You witnessed Uluru push up through the earth, the first crashing of waves on sandy beaches, the rise and decline of megafauna and the amazingly diverse creatures that succeeded them. You gave life to the Indigenous nations that belonged to this land since time immemorial and grieved their displacement and the decimation of their cultures after European colonisation.

You have been present as cities emerged, populations grew, wars were fought and a modern nation built. With tender heart you watched each of us breathe our first breath, and have followed us all the days of our lives. Throughout all this history you have witnessed the good and the bad, the joyous and the painful, the honourable and the shameful.

God of our past, grant us the ability to face up to the shameful and painful parts of our history as readily as we celebrate the honourable and the joyful.

God of our present, grant us the compassion to hear the cries of those who continue to be wounded, the courage to repent, the willingness to learn and change.

God of our future, grant us the courage to do what is necessary now to safeguard the future of our environment, the courage to do what is necessary now to bring healing and reconciliation between Australia's first nations and its newer arrivals, and the desire to celebrate now the history, culture and achievements of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters.