

**Liturgical Resources Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2016  
(NATSIAC Sunday)**

Acknowledgement of Country:

We acknowledge the .... people on whose land we meet today and pay deep and intentional respect to elders past and present. We extend that respect to all Aboriginal people both present and absent from our gathering. In doing so we acknowledge the sovereign Creator who created all beings in the image of the Godhead and so live in forgiveness and reconciliation together.

Sentence:

By the rivers of Babylon—  
there we sat down and there we wept  
when we remembered Zion. Psalm 137:1

Or

On the banks of the mission creeks  
We sat down and wept  
As we remembered country stolen.

Collect:

Abandoned Jesus, in your hour of death even your closest friends fled. Help me to never shrink from the fear of death but to offer it as the final act of life. Help me to accept the death of others when I must, and yet fight against death when it comes as a result of injustice, war, hatred or neglect. May I come to know the reconciled life that is stronger than death. **Amen.**

Confession:

Creator God, who made us to represent you here on earth,  
we have failed as a people to recognise you, to honour you and to live in a way that hallows your name;

**Lord have mercy on us.**

we have not resisted our own selfish needs or considered as equal the needs of others;

**Lord have mercy on us.**

In this place we seek your grace and mercy for us and for all who have sinned or performed evil in this country.

**Lord have mercy on us.**

Absolution:

God is a merciful God and always seeks to reclaim us as God's own. Today we accept this mercy in the name of God the Creator, the Son the Redeemer, and the Spirit the Sustainer.

**Communion**

Prayer after Communion:

*Jesus, those who have loved you most still did not understand the promise of your life. Help us to have faith enough in ourselves enabling us to continue to believe in the richness of reconciliation despite our fear of failure. Help us to trust that your life and your love are always available to us even when they seem hard to find. May we live every day filled with your life that is stronger than death until we are one together forever. **Amen***

A Blessing:

May the indomitable Spirit of the Ancestors inspire us;  
May the unbreakable bonds of country bind us;  
May the memory of those who advocated for recognition and reconciliation empower us;  
May the blessing of God, the Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier go with us from now and in every breath we take. **Amen.**

Alternative Blessing:

*"Be good, keep your feet dry,  
your eyes open, your heart at peace  
and your soul in the joy of Christ."  
Thomas Merton*