Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

By now you are aware that the Referendum for Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and an enshrined Voice in the Constitution will be held on Saturday 14th October.

Australian Faith communities have come together to declare a National Weekend of payer for the Referendum commencing Friday 8th September. A range of major events are being organised in the major capital cities and I have attached detailed calendar of events and an explainer to this email. The explainer outlines how you can be involved and provides links to resources which may be useful.

I would ask that when you report on your event that you copy me in at [gloughrey@melbourneanglican.org](mailto:gloughrey@melbourneanglican.org) for our records.

In addition, I have added the following:

* **A Statement of the Heart prayer service approved for use in the Diocese of Melbourne is in the attachment to this document.** This service is designed to be most effective done in a circle with the words Voice, Treaty, Truth, and Makarrata on the floor in a circle as well. The readings for Sunday 10th September are **Matthew 18:10-20, Romans13:1-10, Psalm 148, Exodus 12:1-14.** These are challenging readings but with care can be a way into the whole story about our history and how a Voice can lead us forward into the Promised land where all are treated equally. More resources on these texts will be posted on redshoeswalking.net/voice next week.
* A link to a YouTube playlist that has a video of the Statement being read. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLY3i9R2T7IvCp8EUFBZqcqn5PV5AFRA5F>
* A link to an excellent musical video written by Peter Branjerdporn & Michelle McDonald. <https://youtu.be/sxIV_tM3T18?si=BTk-j0LG42jiqDhT>
* A link to the ABM webpage with a **“Prayer for the Voice”** that can be used. <https://www.abmission.org/resources/the-voice-referendum/>

**Prayer for the Voice**

God who listens,  
open our hearts to hear the gentle invitation of those without a voice;  
placeless and dispossessed of all that was theirs,  
instead of anger, revenge or blame,  
they offer in their open hand absurd generosity,  
an act of transformational forgiveness  
from the centre of their being to ours:  
May we sense the integrity of country speaking to country, body to body;  
and find within ourselves the humility to accept and journey together,  
to become our nation’s better future,  
resolving our colonial memory, Australia’s original sin.  
As Jesus gave his body for ours,  
help us to receive and pass on this gift of new life,  
for his name’s sake.  
Amen.

**Attachment 1:**

## The Anglican Province of Victoria Liturgical Committee

Prayer and Intercession

# Aboriginal Gathering

**Based on the Process from the *Statement of the Heart***

*Authorised for use*

*by the Archbishop of Melbourne on 8 December 2022*

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## Acknowledgements

This resource has been compiled by Wiradjuri man, the Revd Canon A/Prof Glenn Loughrey, and been made available by the Liturgical Committee of the Anglican Province of Victoria 2022.

# Aboriginal Gathering

**Based on the Process from the *Statement of the Heart***

The following outline may be filled in as appropriate for the gathering

### Welcome (gawaymbanha)

This resource was composed by a Wiradjuri person and uses the Wiradjuri language. When using it on country, please consult with local elders as to the appropriate language to use (for example Woi Wurrung on Wurundjeri Country).

*A first Nations leader may say* Gawaymbanha: You are welcome here. ‘Dust off your feet.

Sit at our table.

Open your heart.

All respond

Gawaymbanha: **We are welcome here.** On the lands of the Wiradjuripeople Acknowledging their elders

Of the every’when.

Gawaymbanha: **Christ is welcome here.**

Let us gather, Honour country Be at home.

### Song (gudhi)

Perhaps we sing, or perhaps we listen to Aboriginal music, or sing along with those songs.

### Voice (ngiyanggarang)

Telling story—Readings from Scripture and/or Aboriginal stories.

### Whin-nga-garra or Yarn (listen, hear, reflect)

What we would call the Sermon, but it may take the form of a comment from each person on what they heard in the story section or whatever is appropriate.

### Treaty (ngu-ng-gi-ya-la-rra)

What we agree on—an Affirmation of Faith.

### Truth (yaldurinya)

Confession.

### Makaratta (murun-gi-y-ali-nya—come to life again)

A form of absolution.

### Song (gudhi)

1. **Eating Together (yandharra)**

Sharing food—bread and water/wine.

### Walking Away (wagirra—walk or step on ground)

Blessing and Dismissal.