

## National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Sunday



### *“Together in the Spirit.”*

As a Council, we prayed upon and discerned for many months as to the theme for this year’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. While there were many options discussed, the developing COVID-19 situation and its widespread effects and concerns throughout our communities, made our decision on the theme clear. Together in the Spirit.

Whether we are able to come together physically in Churches, or via a digital platform, we feel enriched by the fact that, as Australians, will be ‘Together in the Spirit’ on 5 July 2020. The Gospel of the day calls for those of us that are weary, to share our burdens with God. Communities around Australia, both First Nations and non-Indigenous, have endured bushfires, droughts and now a pandemic, it is only natural that our spirit also becomes weary.

There are already many burdens that exist in our communities. With the new challenges presented in times like these, it is important that we continue to place our trust in God, and try even harder to embody the spiritual gifts of empathy, friendship and love for one another. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced NATSICC to rethink the ways in how we empower Catholics to celebrate our special day. This year, by modifying our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday resources to work in a digital setting, we are also holding the first-ever live-streamed, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday Mass from the St Francis Xavier Cathedral in Adelaide from 11am EST.

We are inviting everyone around Australia - and the World - to join us on 5 July 2020, as we come ‘Together in the Spirit’ to celebrate the gifts of spirituality and culture. (From: [https://www.natsicc.org.au/assets/2020web\\_version.pdf](https://www.natsicc.org.au/assets/2020web_version.pdf) )