



# Coming Together as One Family

## The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Ministry celebrates

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Ministry of the Diocese of Broken Bay was established in 2010 with the vision to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples a voice in the Diocese of Broken Bay. Since the inception of this Ministry in June 2010, the ATSICM has continuously focused its efforts towards building and supporting a stronger Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic community within the Diocese.

One of the goals of the ATSICM is to provide culturally-appropriate faith expressions and liturgical celebrations.

On the 23 June an Aboriginal Mass was celebrated to acknowledge NAIDOC WEEK at St John the Baptist Catholic Parish at Woy Woy, with Father Stephen Wayoyi delivering a powerful message on reconciliation and going forth in love and forgiveness knowing today is a new day for all, he spoke about the joy of coming to our Father, together as a family. Father Stephen showed us that all cultures have unique gifts to bring to our liturgies when he played his drums from Africa standing by our Aboriginal Cross.

Family, friends and the Aboriginal community came together to celebrate little Layla Tritton's Baptism at the Mass and share Layla's special cake, tea and coffee afterwards.

The next liturgical celebration was the World Indigenous People's Day Mass which was held at St Patrick's Church, East Gosford on 11 August. Bishop David presided and spoke on inculturation and bringing the Gospel into our daily lives at the Mass, which was attended by a small but supportive group. The Filipino choir from St Patrick's added to the celebration with their beautiful singing and again all cultures came together as we sang "The Aboriginal Our Father".

This prayer from Pope John Paul II's visit to Alice Springs in 1986 was recited by the Aboriginal Peoples present.

"Father of all, you gave us the Dreaming. You have spoken to us through our beliefs. You then made your love clear to us in the person of Jesus. We thank you for your care. You own us. You are our hope. Make us strong as we face the problems of change. We ask you to help the

people of Australia to listen to us and respect our culture. Make the knowledge of you grow strong in all people, so that you can be at home in us and we can make a home for everyone in our land. Amen."

The ATSICM would like to thank all who attended the Masses, making them successful and inspiring mornings. Special thanks especially to the many wonderful parishioners from Woy Woy and the Filipino community at East Gosford Parish who kindly welcomed us, kept us in tune during Mass and assisted in the hospitality afterwards.

The ATSICM would also like to take the opportunity to thank Bishop David for his passion to the First Peoples of this Nation and the insurmountable support he has shown to the ATSICM. We are grateful for the support of our bishop in our ministry as we work at slowly developing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic communities with local leadership and ministries. Our next Mass will be at Warnervale on Sunday 8 December.

Photos courtesy Tom Croll Photography.

