

St Oswald's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2016

The aim of our local Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is to develop and implement a strong set of actions for engagement of the parish members with local and also extended indigenous communities. It is linked to the St Oswald's Mission Action Plan 2016 as Goal #5.

A major RAP activity for 2016 will be to participate in the development of the healing garden, along with indigenous communities providing input, as they have done already through the design undertaken by the Swinburne students.

Another general activity will be to be an advocate on indigenous matters as issues arise. This will be done through the St Oswald's website, Cosa Nostra, letters to editors, and other publications and/or other means as appropriate.

Regular communication with the St Oswald's congregations will be maintained by announcements on progress and RAP actions at Sunday services by Barbara Loh at 8am and Peter Johnson at 10am.

A first step proposed early in this year is to meet with Helen Dwyer, the Indigenous Liaison Officer from Diocese to discuss our tentative local RAP action list and program to ensure it is culturally sensitive and appropriate. This will also afford an opportunity to invite Helen to one of our services to preach if possible later in the year.

In March, Glenn is meeting the indigenous clergy group and with the priest and leader from Lake Tyers Indigenous Community in Gippsland. This will create an opportunity to float the idea of people from St Oswald's establishing a relationship with that indigenous community, to find how if and how we might best support them, and discuss a possible visit to Lake Tyers later in the year.

One of the indigenous clergy in the Melbourne Diocese is Rev Shannon Smith and it is proposed that one Sunday Glenn and Shannon swap services and pulpits so we can hear of Shannon's story.

As part of the RAP in the Diocese, a Week of Prayer for Reconciliation is to be held from 27 May (1967 Indigenous Referendum) until 3 June (Mabo Day). Glenn will be working that week with indigenous and other students at Melbourne Grammar as chaplain and through his painting. It is proposed to invite some of the Melbourne Grammar students to our Sunday service on 29 May or 5 June, to be followed by lunch with our people.

On Monday evening, 26 September, Glenn will be speaking at the Men of Glenburton (MOG) meeting on an Indigenous Perspective and his life journey as one with an indigenous heritage.

On Saturday 15 October, an Indigenous Walk is planned as part of the regular schedule of walks of the Raven Ramblers. The plan is for a Saturday morning for half day involving walk and education session to be provided by an indigenous leader from the Koorie Heritage Trust in Melbourne. The walk will either be in the Flagstaff Gardens or Birrarung Marr.

Other activities may emerge as part of this Indigenous RAP program as the year unfolds. Details will appear on the website www.stoswaldsgleniris.net.au.

If you are keen to learn more, provide assistance, or get involved in some activities, please contact Barbara Loh, who is usually at the 8am services, or Peter Johnson at the 10am services.

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