

DAY OF MOURNING 2021

The observance of a Day of Mourning was endorsed by the Fifteenth Assembly of the Uniting Church in 2018, at the request of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC). In the spirit of our Covenant relationship with the UAICC, the Church has declared the Sunday before Australia Day as a Day of Mourning.

This Day invites all Uniting Church congregations to hold worship services that reflect on the effect of invasion and colonisation on Australia's First Peoples and our identity as a nation.

Remembering our history is an important part of our journey toward reconciliation as First and Second Peoples. We are reminded of the dispossession and violence against First Peoples, and lament that as a Church and as Second Peoples we were and remain complicit.

We acknowledged this in our Church when we apologised to the Stolen Generations in 1997.

We acknowledged this by revising the *Preamble to our Constitution, which was approved by the Ninth Assembly in 2009.

We acknowledged this in affirming First Peoples as the sovereign peoples of this land in 2018.

Our declaration of a Day of Mourning allows us to stand together in remembering the truth of our history, and honouring the culture of Australia's First Peoples, their families and the next generations.

Dr Deidre Palmer, President of the Uniting Church writes: "As the Uniting Church we hear Jesus calling us into the light of reconciliation. We pray that our Church and nation will continue on this journey of confession, truth telling and working toward justice and healing for our nation."

* Constitution 2018 Preamble pp 40-42

Source: mk0unitingchurcq6akw.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Day-of-Mourning-2021-Final-2.pdf

Services – Sunday 24 January, 2021

Epiphany 3

9.30am Five Dock – led by Ruby Arthur

Reading: Psalm 85: 7-13; Matthew 15: 21-28

Theme: "Day of Mourning / Australia Day"

We give thanks to God that today we are able to again gather together in worship. "This is the day which the Lord has made – we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Thank you to the Worship Committee for their preparation of this service which reflects on both Day of Mourning and Australia Day . We honour all who have contributed toward the development of our country.



DIARY DATES

Dates for your Diary

Church Council Meetings	21 February
	23 May
	22 August
	21 November
Congregation Meetings	14 March
	9 September
Property & Admin.Cttee	17 February
Worship Committee	14 February
World Day of Prayer	5 March

Church Council Meeting - 21 February

Written reports are required from the treasurer, minister, PAC, congregation and pastoral care group for presentation to this meeting.

Please provide to the church office by Sunday 7th February for printing and distribution on Sunday 14th February.

Giving at Christmas

Thank you for your donations to the following organisations given through the Christmas Day offerings.

Christmas Bowl	\$520.00
Wesley Mission	\$235.00
Exodus Foundation	\$305.00

An amount of \$251 was forwarded to Wycliffe Australia for translation work. Thank you for your support.