

# St James Parish RAP Implementation Plan 2024 – 2025 Summary

The purpose of the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is to progress the journey of reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with an aim to better understand our shared history and the importance of working together for justice, peace and reconciliation. St James Parish is commencing on this journey in 2025 with the launch of our Implementation Plan of the Archdiocesan RAP.

The Archdiocesan RAP can be found here:

<https://archdiocesanministries.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/RAP-booklet-2023-e.pdf>

The St James implementation plan of the Archdiocesan Reconciliation Action Plan can be found here:

[https://www.stjames-coorparoo.org.au/uploads/1/0/3/1/103169984/st\\_james\\_parish\\_rap\\_implementation\\_plan\\_2024-2025.pdf](https://www.stjames-coorparoo.org.au/uploads/1/0/3/1/103169984/st_james_parish_rap_implementation_plan_2024-2025.pdf)

The plan outlines the reconciliation activities that St James Parish are planning to undertake for the year. This document summarises the formal plan, making it easily accessible to all parishioners.

RAP Guidance	St James Plan Activities
<p><b>Relationships</b> - Establish and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and organisations.</p> <p>Consulting with and listening to the voices of First Nations Peoples within the parish</p>	<p>Promote in Bulletin and attend events promoting Reconciliation</p> <p>Annual Reconciliation Dinner (Sep-5th)</p> <p>RAP Networking workshops – Truth telling, Where to from now</p> <p>Monthly RAP around the Ridges gatherings</p>
<p>Build relationships through celebrating and commemorating events of significance.</p> <p>National Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC week</p>	<p>Promote in Bulletin and attend events</p> <p>Host events at St James Parish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Movie Night + discussion (27-May-2025)</li> <li>- ‘Elders day’ in the parish (all elders), invite indigenous elders to yarning circle</li> <li>- NAIDOC Mass at St James – 13-Jul-2025</li> </ul>
<p>Celebrate and recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dates of Importance</p>	<p>Promote in Bulletin and Prayers of the Faithful</p>
<p>Organise events that celebrate or recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and culture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attend Ngutana-Lui ("To Teach") program - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Studies Centre, Inala</li> <li>- Organise Cultural immersion day in Cherbourg (Ration Shed) or Walking on Country with Uncle Joe Kirk.</li> <li>- RAP Launch and unveiling event for plaques (9-Feb-2025)</li> <li>- Host RAP around the Ridges (Mar-2025)</li> </ul>
<p>Strengthen opportunities for truth telling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 'Statement of the Heart' discussion series</li> </ul>
<p><b>Respect</b> - Demonstrate respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by observing cultural protocols.</p> <p>Include an Acknowledgement of Country or other as appropriate protocols at the commencement of meetings/liturgies/events</p>	<p>Acknowledgement of Country to be placed in bulletin, parish website, social media, weekend masses PPT slides.</p>
<p>Increase inclusiveness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture in public access areas - Install Acknowledgement of Country plaques, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artwork, symbols and flags where appropriate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NATSIC acknowledgment plaques purchased and installed – Church, Priory, Hall, Meeting Room/s.</li> <li>- Acquire and install artwork, apology to stolen generation, Uluru Statement from the Heart</li> <li>- Place items in Welcome area within church</li> </ul>



**At a special Mass on Sunday 9th-Feb at 9:00am, we will be launching the St James RAP Implementation Plan. There will be a number of ceremonies conducted during the Mass. An explanation of these ceremonies follows, so that you may better understand Aboriginal culture and spirituality.**

## **Aboriginal Smoking Ceremony**

An Aboriginal Smoking ceremony are ceremonies of importance to Aboriginal people. These occasions are interpreted as signs of respect when Aboriginal families, Clans or Communities passing through Country or lands, belonging to other Aboriginal people with same or different Languages or landscapes, such as Saltwater people, desert people & mountain or valley region people.

The smoking Ceremonies are used for various reasons, these include

- Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement to Country
- Spirit or Health healing
- To warn off bad spirits on land or people
- Blessings of safe passage when entering and travelling on Country

Today's Smoking Ceremony is to Culturally Bless the launch of the Parish RAP Implementation on behalf of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Catholic Community belonging to the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane.

May we all Journey together in unity for justice peace and reconciliation on Yuggera and Turrbal Country and other surrounding Traditional lands of the Aboriginal people of the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane.

## **Blessing Through Water**

For Aboriginal people today, the Spirit of the Dreaming is still strong within us.

Each time we perform these ancient rituals of a water blessing we connect our spirit with those of our ancestors –their spirit is reborn and becomes strong within us around us.

### **Blessing**

*Creator God, water has given life to our land because all living things depend on water. It has given food, cool refreshment and cleansing to our people. You give us new life and you refresh us with the Spirit. May this water deepen our life in the Spirit and give us courage to walk in the way of Jesus and in the way of our culture.*

## **Presentation of Gifts at Offertory Procession - Mother Earth**

We enjoy the physical and spiritual connections to Mother Earth, waters and environment. The physical and spiritual connections are the necessary elements of our life's energy.

This land gave us our names. It shaped our lives and gives us our life. Our relationships are written in the land, we and the land belong to each other. Our relationship of the land is at the centre of our lives, the country is us. Through land all gifts come to us, it provides all our needs.

For thousands of years Aboriginal people have lived in this land and fashioned a culture that endures to this day. And during all which influences their lives so strongly, that no matter what happens, they remain forever people of their culture, and their way of touching the mystery of God's Spirit in you and in creation.

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

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