



# National NAIDOC Week 2025

NAIDOC Week celebrations will be held from 6 – 13 July 2025.

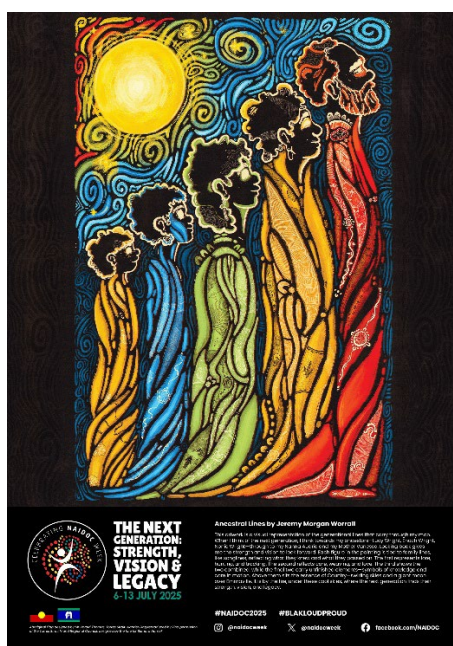


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## 2025 NAIDOC Theme

### The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy



As we step into 2025, NAIDOC Week marks a significant milestone—**50 years of honouring and uplifting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices, culture, and resilience**. This year's theme, **"The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy,"** invites us to reflect on the powerful journey so far while looking ahead with hope and purpose. It celebrates the strength of our young leaders, the bold vision of our communities, and the enduring legacy carried forward by generations past.

NAIDOC began as a movement for justice and equal rights, led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities who believed in a better future. Over the past 50 years, it has grown into a strong national celebration, honouring the resilience and achievements of First Nations peoples.

As we reflect on this legacy, we also look ahead celebrating the next generation who will carry this journey forward with strength, wisdom, and pride. Guided by our Elders and the footsteps of those who came before, NAIDOC Week reminds us of our shared history and vision: an Australia where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices are not just heard but lead the way.

This year, the National NAIDOC Committee takes an important step toward independence, embracing self-determination as a model for the next generation. With every story shared, every act of resilience remembered, and every cultural practice celebrated, we honour a legacy that reaches far into the past and extends into the future. As we celebrate this milestone, we look toward the next 50 years.

From this solid foundation, the next generation will rise—grounded in the strength of our Elders, history, inspired by a shared vision, and committed to building a legacy of unity, respect, and self-determination for all. This NAIDOC Week, we celebrate not just a milestone but a movement that endures, grows, and evolves—driven by the unwavering strength of our communities, the shared vision of our people, and the enduring legacy we pass on to those who will shape our future. Together, we walk forward, honouring where we've come from and looking forward to the next generation who will carry NAIDOC and their communities into the future.

## **DO YOU KNOW WHAT NAIDOC STANDS FOR?**

On 26 January 1938, while many Australians celebrated the 150th anniversary of the landing of the First Fleet, a group of over 1000 Aboriginal people gathered at Australia Hall in Sydney to call for full citizenship status and laws to improve the lives of First Nations people.

As one of the first major civil rights gatherings in the world, this day became known as the Day of Mourning. Since then, National NAIDOC Week has grown to become both a commemoration of the first Day of Mourning as well as a celebration of the history, culture and excellence of First Nations people. National NAIDOC Week is observed annually from the first Sunday in July until the following Sunday.

## **TIMELINE**

From 1940 until 1955, the Day of Mourning was held annually on the Sunday before Australia Day and was known as 'Aborigines Day'. \* In 1955 'Aborigines Day' was shifted to the first Sunday in July when it was decided that the day should also become a celebration of Aboriginal culture as well as a day of protest. Major Aboriginal organisations, as well as state and federal governments, all supported the formation of the National Aborigines Day Observance Committee (NADOC).

In 1974, for the first time, the NADOC committee was composed entirely of Aboriginal representatives. The following year, it was decided that NADOC be expanded to become a week of celebrations, from the first to the second Sunday in July. In 1984, NADOC asked that National Aborigines Day be made a national public holiday to help celebrate and recognise the rich cultural history that makes Australia unique. This has not happened (yet!), however other groups have echoed the committee's call.

As awareness of the distinct cultural histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples grew, NADOC was expanded to recognise Torres Strait Islander people and culture. The committee then became known as the National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC).

The National NAIDOC Committee makes key decisions regarding national celebrations each year as stewards of National NAIDOC Week events on behalf of all First Nations people.

## Ways Your Parish Can Support NAIDOC Week

As we honour 50 years of NAIDOC Week, we're invited to walk together in celebrating the strength, vision, and legacy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Here are meaningful ways your parish can engage:

### Spiritual and Liturgical Involvement

- Include prayers for First Nations Peoples in weekly liturgies
- Invite Elders to speak or be honoured at Mass
- Host a NAIDOC liturgy or prayer service
- Display Traditional Place Names on Mass booklets, signage, and online
- Create a reflection space with First Nations artwork and symbols
- Feature the NATSICC Poster in your church or bulletin

### Community Connection

- Host a NAIDOC morning tea or gathering
- Attend a local NAIDOC event (find listings at [naidoc.org.au](https://naidoc.org.au))
- Invite Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders from other faiths to celebrations
- Fundraise for a First Nations charity or initiative
- Consult with local Traditional Owners when planning events

### Learning and Listening

- Learn whose Country you're on at [aiatsis.gov.au](https://aiatsis.gov.au)
- Read a book by a First Nations author
- Watch films or documentaries by First Nations filmmakers
- Listen to music and podcasts by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists
- Share the stories of local Traditional Custodians in your bulletin or homily

### Visibility and Advocacy

- Display the NAIDOC Week Poster and explore merchandise at [naidoc.org.au](https://naidoc.org.au).
- Use NAIDOC Week Graphics—add a banner to your email signature or use social media frames from the NAIDOC downloads page.
- Support a Blak-Owned Business and highlight the importance of ethical purchasing.

### Ongoing Commitment

**NAIDOC Week is just one step on the journey of reconciliation. Be sure to:**

- Consult and collaborate with First Nations communities when planning events.
- Reflect on how your parish can continue walking together toward justice, healing, and unity throughout the year.

## **Creator God of Holy Dreaming**

Bring us together as one,

Reconciled with you and one another.

Bless Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this land.

The first peoples to receive your blessings in this land.

The first peoples to see your beauty in the land, water, sky and nature.

The first peoples to hear your voice in ancient stories.

The first to give you praises in ancient places.

The first to know your love and love you in return.

God bless the Elders keeping culture and languages alive.

Bless all who work in Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, making friends, growing partnerships to a deeper understanding of culture and languages, learning to love and grow together.

Give us grace to travel together towards reconciliation for the sake of Jesus Christ.

**Amen**

*This prayer was written by Rev'd Canon Aunty Di Langham for National Reconciliation Week 2025.*

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

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