



Services – Sunday 16 July, 2023

Pentecost 7

9.30am Five Dock

Preacher: Rev Wattson Pualilo

Reading: Matthew 13: 18-23

Theme: "Same seed on different soils"

We are glad to have you with us today in worship.

It is our hope that you will not only learn more about God, but that you will encounter Him and experience His presence, love and grace for you.

DIARY DATES



Monday 17 July

Monday Afternoon Lenten Bible Study

This week we begin a new series based on 1 Timothy prepared by John Stott entitled 'Fighting the Good Fight'.

The first *Topic* is "True or False".

Reading: 1 Timothy 1: 1-11

All are welcome to join as we meet in the Church at 3pm.

Thank you

A note of thanks has been received from the family of the late Francis Harding. Louise writes - "Thank you the memorial and afternoon tea you prepared and served are memories I will cherish forever."

Anna Chung

The concert last Saturday with music presented by Anna was of high standard and an enjoyable occasion. If interested you may watch the concert on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xmjcn67ADX8

Best wishes to Heather, our Congregation Administrator who is having extended holiday leave. Our love and prayers go with you. Have a safe and wonderful time, you will be missed.

Meeting date of PAC listed for Wed 19 July has been moved one week to **Wednesday 26 July**.

***INTERNATIONAL YEAR
FOR THE WORLD'S
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES***

How time flies? Thirty years ago (10 December 1992) a speech was given in Redfern to launch the International Year for the World's Indigenous Peoples. In that speech many issues were raised that we still grapple with in 2023. In truth, have we really as a nation, succeeded in extending opportunity and care, dignity and hope to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people? Our identity cannot be separated from Aboriginal Australia.

This year (2023) is the time to bring the dispossessed out of the shadows, to recognise that they are part of us and that we cannot give Indigenous Australians up without giving up many of our own most deeply held values, much of our own identity and humanity. Surely we can find just solutions to the problems which beset the first Australians - the people to whom the most injustice has been done. This must begin with the act of Recognition.

In coming months we should ignore the outbreaks of hysteria, hostility and politics. The message should be that there is nothing to fear or to lose in recognition, in historical truth, or the extension of social justice or the deepening of Australian social democracy to include Indigenous Australians. Where Aboriginal Australians have been included in the life of Australia remarkable contributions have been made. If we have a sense of justice and common sense, we will forge a new partnership.

We are beginning to appreciate the depth and diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. From music, art and dance we are beginning to recognise how much richer our national life and identity is for their participation. We are beginning to learn how we should live with our physical environment. We are beginning to recognise the wisdom contained in their epic story.

The issues raised above come from a speech given by then Prime Minister Paul Keating, 10 December 1992. Many other points were raised in this speech and are still relevant in discussion around the Voice today. Why are we so slow to respond to common sense?