



MIDDAY PRAYER Sorry Day



Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise stated, the author is Garry Deverell. www.deverell.net

'They took the children away' from the CD *Charcoal Lane* by Archie Roach.
© Mushroom Records 1992.

The HREOC Report on the Stolen Generations is available at:
http://www.humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/bth_report/index.html

OPENING RESPONSES

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping:
Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted,
because her children are no more.

[Jeremiah 31.15](#)

The day is now grown to its full strength:
the light is strong, and the shadows also;
so let us pray to God for wisdom and holiness:

Glory be to God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

ABOUT SORRY DAY

SONG 'They took the children away' by Archie Roach

Silence.

LAMENT Lamentations 5.1-15

Silence.

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 49.8-13

Silence.

CANTICLE OF CHRIST'S CARE

Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you:

you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.

Often you weep over our sin and our pride:

tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement.

You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds:

in sickness you nurse us and with pure milk you feed us.

Jesus, by your dying we are bom to new life:

by your anguish and your labour we come forth in joy.

Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness:

through your gentleness, our fears are put to rest.

Your warmth gives life to the dead:

your touch makes sinners righteous.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy, heal us:

in your love and tenderness, remake us.

In your compassion, bring grace and forgiveness:

for the beauty of the new creation, may your love prepare us.

Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109)

PRAYERS

Kyrie eleison

Christe eleison

Kyrie eleison

God of earth and sea and sky,
God of our ancestors,

We cry out today in grief for what has happened in this land.
Our hearts churn with the pain of generations:
generations stolen from the love of mother and father,
generations stolen from kin and culture,
generations stolen from land and freedom.

Forgive our complicity in the actions of church and state.
Change our stony hearts into hearts that can feel.
Infuse us with courage to join with the journey of healing.
We long for the day when the children can return home,
when broken hearts may find healing
in the land of their longing and the people of their birth.

God of Jesus, you are our sister and our mother,
the earth at our feet and the breath in our nostrils.
We turn to you today,
not knowing how the healing will come,
but trusting that you will be
our strength and our courage for the journey.
Amen.

Other prayers for healing and reconciliation may be offered.

The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer

BLESSING

God encircle us with fire of the Spirit
God encircle us with waters of birth
God encircle us with saints and apostles
God encircle us and keep us in love.

The blessing of God be with us always—
that of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
You are blessed. Go now to bless others.

Glory be to God. Amen.