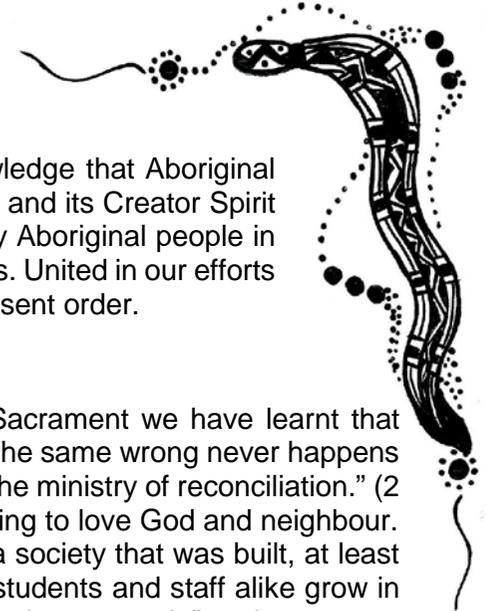


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Our Acknowledgement

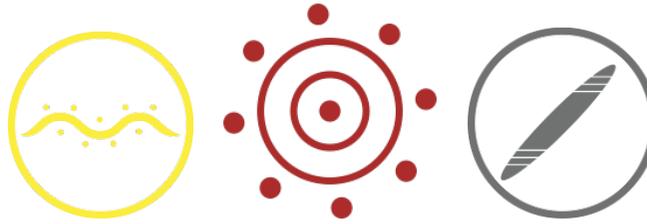
At St Monica's College, we recognise the special place and culture of Aboriginal peoples within Australia. We acknowledge that Aboriginal peoples have been the caretakers of this Land for thousands of years. We respect their spiritual connection to the Earth and its Creator Spirit through the Dreaming. We understand that practical measures are needed to address the disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal people in education, health, employment, and general opportunity and that our College community has its part to play in this process. United in our efforts with all those who are working for true reconciliation, we are committed to actively seek a more just alternative to the present order.

Who We Are

As Catholics, we experience the healing power of reconciliation through the Sacrament of Penance, and from this Sacrament we have learnt that reconciliation requires an acknowledgement of the wrongs committed, an apology and a firm commitment to ensure that the same wrong never happens again. Along with St Paul, we profess that "all this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." (2 Corinthians 5:18) For this reason, we regard our efforts to promote Reconciliation as an integral part of our Christian calling to love God and neighbour. We believe that all Australians share a collective responsibility for action on Aboriginal issues because we enjoy life in a society that was built, at least in part, upon injustices which have not yet been fully redressed. As a College community, we commit to ensuring that students and staff alike grow in their awareness of this responsibility. George Santayana famously said "those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it," and so we are committed to looking without bias at the wrongs perpetrated against Aboriginals and acknowledging the injustice which continues to this day. We commit to doing this in the classroom, whenever we gather as a community and during those occasions when we turn our thoughts and hearts to God in prayer.

Our Covenant

The St Monica's College, Epping Reconciliation Covenant was developed after our College community was presented with ideas for reconciliation in our local community by the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Melbourne. With the support and encouragement of the Principal and Senior Leadership Group, it was established and will continue to be refined by the College. In this revision of our covenant, we look with thanksgiving to the past as well as hope to the future. Along with the goals outlined in this covenant, we commit ourselves to: continuing to fly the Aboriginal flag next to the Australian flag, integrating Aboriginal perspectives in teaching and learning and beginning major College liturgies with an Acknowledgement of Country.



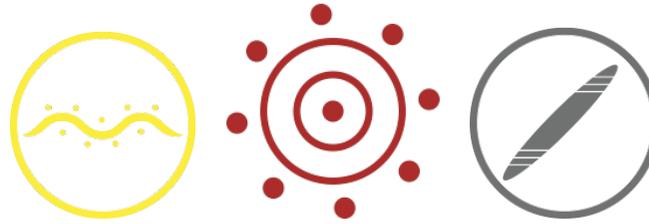
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Goals

Through prayer and other activities, to foster a deeper awareness of Aboriginal social justice issues.

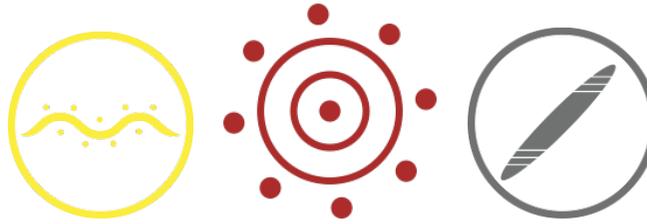
Actions

- Incorporate Aboriginal prayers and symbols in liturgy, giving prominence to our College's Message Sticks.
- Maintain a section in the student portal which features Aboriginal prayers.
- Inform students of the reasons for flying flags at half-mast when commemorating significant events in Australian history.
- Encourage students to attend the annual Long Walk and dreamtime match.
- Attempt to include a workshop based on an Aboriginal aspect of each year's theme during annual Staff Spirituality Days.
- Ensure that there is a year level focus on the issue of reconciliation and Indigenous Awareness in the Be More student social justice group.



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Goals	Actions
<p>Publicly display our school's respect for Aboriginal people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Promote aboriginal dreaming stories during Indigenous Awareness Week.➤ Acknowledgement of Country on College website.➤ Biennially elect FIRE carriers and perform the commissioning ceremony.
<p>Seek advice from Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria on cultural matters and seek knowledge of the local Aboriginal community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Assist staff and students with connecting and sharing resources with other schools.➤ Ensure that libraries have an Aboriginal section available to all students.➤ Recognise National Apology Day.➤ Recognise National Reconciliation Week.➤ Establish a connection with Good Samaritan educators in Aboriginal communities.



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Goals

Promote Reconciliation and Justice.

Actions

- Supporting students with an Aboriginal heritage.
- Integrate the student FIRE Carriers into our College Social Justice initiatives.
- Raise awareness of the work of the Opening the Doors Foundation.
- Establish a relationship with Reconciliation Victoria.
- Coordinate the efforts of staff and students through the Indigenous Perspectives Group.

The FIRE Carrier Project is an initiative of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry and the Opening the Doors Foundation with the Sandhurst CEO to promote and assist Reconciliation through Education in Victorian Schools.

St Monica's College, Epping commits to completing or putting steps in place to complete all actions outlined in this covenant. Regular reviews of the Reconciliation covenant will be conducted.