

### ***Praying for compassion***

Let us pray with hearts longing for change, praying that the spirit of true compassion may flow through us and our nation, and saying:

**heal and renew us with love**

Source of life and new beginnings,

Stir up compassion for all who live in Australia, that we may walk the path of reconciliation with respect and justice for all: **heal and renew us with love**

Stir up compassion for all who are despised and marginalised, and raise up allies and advocates for them: **heal and renew us with love**

Stir up compassion for our land, that we may treasure our environment and honour the lives of all who care for it: **heal and renew us with love**

Stir up compassion for refugees, here and everywhere, and help us support them with protection and relief: **heal and renew us with love**

Stir up compassion for victims of war, and help us be healers and peacemakers for them: **heal and renew us with love**

Stir up compassion for the victims & perpetrators of abuse and violence, and bring them transformation: **heal and renew us with your love**

Stir up compassion among the media, and use their words and images to soften hearts: **heal and renew us with your love**

Stir up compassion among lawyers and the judiciary, as they argue for justice and human rights: **heal and renew Australia**

Stir up compassion among political leaders, as they shape policies and attitudes with their words: **heal and renew us with love**

Stir up compassion among our communities to grow in relationship as people of different faiths and none: **heal and renew us with love**

Spirit of infinite compassion, write your law of love on every heart, beginning with ours. **Amen.**

### **Blessing**

### **SONG: LAND OF THE LITTLE KINGS**

*This litany was drafted by The Revd Dr Jonathan Inkipin, based on that of The Revd Elizabeth Smith for a 'Repenting of our silence: A Flag Washing Litany' outside Perth Immigration Detention Centre on 27 January 2014. These words may be used in whole or in part to pray for justice in other contexts.*

# **SEEKING HEALING AND RENEWAL**

## ***a Flag washing ceremony for Australia***

26 January 2015

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

### **Reconciliation with the First Peoples of Australia**

Let us pray to the Ground of all being, saying "have mercy on us."

Source of all creation, **have mercy on us.**

Power of love **have mercy on us.**

Spirit of transformation, **have mercy on us.**

In our sorrow for the First Peoples of this land, on whose dispossession of prosperity has been built, we pray: **have mercy on us.**

In our grief for the First Peoples' languages lost, cultures despised and far fragmented, we pray: **have mercy on us.**

In our shame at continuing indigenous disadvantage in health, education, employment and housing, we pray: **have mercy on us.**

In our hope for constitutional change to recognise the full dignity of Australia's First Peoples, we pray: **have mercy on us.**

In our yearning for true reconciliation and grace to walk together into a just future, we pray: **have mercy on us.**

In our hunger for strength to make difficult changes of attitude and behaviour in our communities, we pray: **have mercy on us.**

Source of holy dreaming, bring all Australians together as one and heal the wounds of our past. **Amen.**

## Reading from the Hebrew scriptures (Ezekiel 36.24-28)

### Lament

Let us pray for grace to weep for our suffering world, saying: **hear our prayer.**

Give us tears to weep for the destruction and waste of the environment of which we are an inextricable part. We cry out: **hear our prayer.**

Give us tears to weep for the victims and perpetrators of war, persecution and violence. We cry out: **hear our prayer.**

Give us tears to weep for refugees in detention who have committed no crime. for the forcibly deported and separated families. We cry out: **hear our prayer.**

Give us tears to weep for all those who are required to implement policies they abhor. We cry out: **hear our prayer.**

Give us tears to weep for the victims and perpetrators of racism, homophobia, domestic and gender violence. We cry out: **hear our prayer.**

Give us tears to weep for those who are caught up in the fear and hatred of religious beliefs and practices: **hear our prayer.**

Give us tears to weep for the poor, the homeless, and those who have been cast aside. We cry out: **hear our prayer.**

Give us tears to weep for our nation's failure to share our abundant resources equitably. We cry out: **hear our prayer.**

Give us tears to weep for our own inaction when feelings of powerlessness overwhelm us. We cry out: **hear our prayer.**

Give us tears to weep for our wasted rage when we blame others instead of taking action. We cry out: **hear our prayer.**

Give us tears to weep for those who exploit the desperate, who make money from misery. We cry out: **hear our prayer.**

Source of transforming Love, you weep over all the sorrows of your people. Take our tears, our anger and our sorrow, and use us to make a difference for those who need it most. **Amen.**

**Prayer from Michael Leunig: BALANCE US LIKE TREES**

## *Forgiveness for our actions and our failure to act*

Let us pray for forgiveness, for ourselves and for nation, saying:

**wash us with water of new life**

From the sin of blaming the victims of conflict, we pray:

**wash us with water of new life**

From the sin of selfish protection of our own privilege, we pray:

**wash us with water of new life**

From the sin of failing to see our face in that of the stranger, we pray:

**wash us with water of new life**

From the sin of passivity when others' needs are great, we pray:

**wash us with water of new life**

From the sin of despair that our actions can achieve nothing, we pray:

**wash us with water of new life**

From the sin of complacency in the face of others' trouble, we pray:

**wash us with water of new life**

From the sin of refusing to share our abundance with the needy, we pray:

**wash us with water of new life**

From the sin of failing to care for the environment of which we are inextricably a part, we pray:

**wash us with water of new life**

From the sin of keeping silent when racism speaks loudly, we pray:

**wash us with water of new life**

From the sin of belittling the suffering of others, we pray:

**wash us with water of new life**

From the sin of doing nothing when we could do something, we pray:

**wash us with water of new life**

Source of all life and Fountain of living water, you know the sins we hide even from ourselves: set us free to live differently, generously, joyfully, in the power of your Spirit. **Amen.**

### **Blessing of Water**

### **FLAG WASHING**

(song: Prayer for Peace – *Peace before me, peace behind me, peace under our feet. Peace within us, peace over us, let all around us be peace...*)