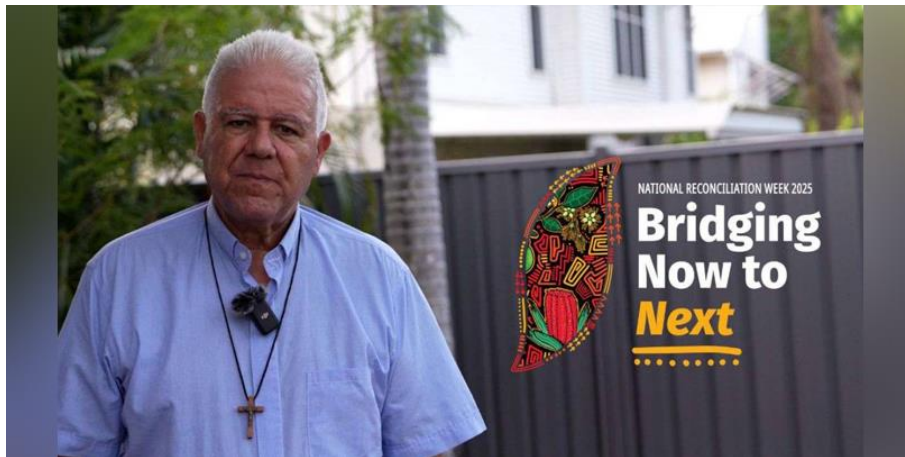


National Reconciliation Week 2025

27 May 2025



As Australia observes National Reconciliation Week 2025, Bishop Charles Gauci, Bishop of Darwin, has delivered a powerful message highlighting reconciliation as a sacred responsibility for all Christians and people of goodwill.

Speaking from the heart, Bishop Gauci acknowledged the profound importance of recognising and learning from the past — its mistakes, pain, and injustices — while also embracing the strengths and hopes that continue to shape the future.

“Reconciliation,” he said, “requires us to be honest. It is not easy, because it calls us to admit what has been wrong. But it also asks us to be resilient — to work together for justice and for the dignity of every human being.”

Drawing on core values of Christian faith, Bishop Gauci emphasised that respect, compassion, and the pursuit of the common good are not only ethical imperatives but integral to the Church’s mission.

“At the heart of being Christian is the call to respect everyone,” he stated. “To be true to who we are means we must work for justice. This is not just a good idea — it’s a vocation.”

The Bishop acknowledged the complexities and challenges surrounding reconciliation, especially in light of Australia’s history with its First Nations peoples. However, he urged listeners not to shy away from the task simply because it is difficult.

“There are many complex realities involved,” he said, “but we cannot step back just because it is not easy. With the grace of God, and by working in unity, we can move forward in love, respect, and hope.”

Bishop Gauci concluded his message with a call to action — to continue walking together in solidarity so that every person may flourish and live in the fullness of their identity as sons and daughters of God.

“Let us work together for the betterment of all, so that each person can truly flourish,” he said.

National Reconciliation Week runs from 27 May to 3 June each year, commemorating two significant milestones in Australia’s reconciliation journey: the 1967 referendum and the 1992 High Court Mabo decision. The week is an opportunity for all Australians to reflect, learn, and engage in meaningful steps towards healing and unity.

For Bishop Gauci and the Diocese of Darwin, reconciliation remains not just a national priority, but a Gospel imperative.

Bishop Gauci is a Member of Bishops Commission for Relations with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander People, which is one of the Commissions of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. To see and listen to his message, go to https://youtu.be/Pu3mkvROL_s.

Catholic Diocese of Darwin: <https://darwin.catholic.org.au/national-reconciliation-week-2025/>, accessed 28 May 2025.