

# Earth, Fire and Water Ceremony

## Indigenous Person

For thousands of years before recorded time, our people have walked on this **EARTH**, on their own country. Our relationship with the land is at the centre of our lives.

Our country is our mother: in a sense our country is us.

**FIRE** is important to our people; our people could not do without it.

Fire means

the calling of people together

the gathering in a circle around the fire for cooking and eating and for warmth at night;

the gathering for ceremonies;

the gathering for story telling;

the place for being together.

Fire is at the heart of our Indigenous culture.

**WATER** is also important to our people.

In the driest part of the driest country,

water is life-giving,

refreshing,

cooling

and cleansing

to our country and to us.

# Indigenous Person

Earth, Fire and Water also have deep symbolism in our Christian heritage.

In the Old Testament **LAND** was God's promise to the Jewish people.

In the New Testament, Christian people are called to have a deep sense of care for land and all creation.

All creation and life looks forward to the promised land of heaven.

For Christians **FIRE** represents the light of Christ. The Holy Spirit came down upon the apostles at Pentecost as tongues of fire. We think of the flame of faith burning in people's lives.

**WATER** is the symbol of baptism, which gives us new life and hope and makes us one with Jesus and with each other.

# Non-Indigenous Person

As Non-Indigenous and Indigenous people together,

let us have a sense of the importance of Dharawal country upon which we are standing.

Let us sense the land beneath our feet and know to whom it belongs.

*(Pause)*

Let us have a sense of the importance of water and fire - as Indigenous and Christian life symbols.

*(Pause)*

The cool, refreshing water; giving life to Indigenous and Non-indigenous alike. The water giving life to people in baptism.

*(Pause)*

The warm, inviting fire drawing us all, Indigenous and Non-indigenous, together. the light of Christ, the flame of the Holy Spirit, bringing us together in Jesus.

*(Pause)*

# Indigenous Person

This container is filled with earth from our land.

This is our fire.

This coolamon is filled with water.

We invite you to take a moment to appreciate this earth, our land. *(pause)*

We invite you to take a moment and reflect on the importance of life-giving water. *(pause)*

We invite you to take a moment to appreciate the warmth of our fire that gives light and guidance. *(pause)*

Let us sense the warmth as a call to all people in this country to come together warmly, sharing our different stories and being together as one.