

**Pastoral Prayer for the Seventh Anniversary of the National Apology
written by President Rev Charissa Suli
for use in congregations and wider community**

Loving and faithful God,
We come before you with heavy hearts,
remembering children and young people who were harmed within
institutions
that should have been places of safety, care and nurture.

We grieve with survivors,
honouring their courage, their truth and their pain.
Their voices call us to repentance,
their stories lead us to change.

Forgive us where we have failed to see,
failed to protect, failed to act.
Give us humility to listen,
and wisdom to walk in justice and compassion.

We pray for all who still carry wounds –
visible and invisible –
that they may know healing, dignity and hope.
Surround them with people who will believe, support and protect them.

Renew in us, O God,
an unshakeable commitment to safeguard every child and young person.
Teach us vigilance, integrity and love.
Let our Church be woven into a community of safety,
where the “Threads of Love” of Christ hold and protect the most
vulnerable.

We pray this in the name of Jesus,
who welcomed children with dignity and blessed them,
and who calls us to create places of safety, love and trust for every child.

Amen

