Main Topic: Spirituality
Sub Topic: Catholic Links

- For teachers in Kimberley schools, and teachers of Kimberley kids elsewhere, the *Kimberley Companion* is your resource for making the WA Religious Education Guidelines relevant for Kimberley students. It will also enlighten teachers about aspects of Aboriginal spiritual life in the Kimberley.

- There are many parallels between Catholic religious expression and Aboriginal spirituality. See the document in this Spirituality section titled *Symbols*.

- When reading Dreaming stories with students, always draw parallels with the Bible. Just as the Bible contains God’s laws of right and wrong and rules for living a good life, Dreaming stories hold the Law and rules for living in communion with each other and with the land.

- Read Dreaming stories where the theme is Sharing or Cooperation or Telling the Truth, etc and ask students to identify the message.

- Through viewing and discussion, encourage students to develop their awareness that Aboriginal people living in communities have always shared what they have with others

- Read Creation stories from many traditions.

- The *Scholastic Reconciliation Kit* includes Dreaming stories for lower, middle and upper primary students with activities for each in the Teacher Resource Books for each level.

- The middle primary set includes *The Spotted Cat*, a Dreaming story that is a classic David & Goliath type saga. Learning activities and worksheets are in the Teacher Resource Book.

- The first section of *Exploring Woodlands with Nyoongars* is titled ‘Religion and Change’ and includes an activity for comparing three Creation stories. It can be purchased from DEC or downloaded from their website at: [http://www.naturebase.net/content/view/2265/1090/1](http://www.naturebase.net/content/view/2265/1090/1)

- Watch the video *Between the levels : Aboriginal art and spirituality* This program features the work of Aboriginal artists from Balgo, Fitzroy Crossing, Turkey Creek, Daly River and Groote Eylandt, whose paintings express traditional dreaming and are also inclusive of the Christian story. It provides a unique insight into Aboriginal people, their art and Gospel values.

- The video *The Serpent and the Cross : Aboriginal Art and Religion in Australia* features the work of a number of Aboriginal artists who through their artwork try to bridge the gap between two religious systems: traditional Aboriginal spirituality and Christianity.

- Artist Matthew Gill from Balgo has depicted the *Stations of the Cross* and
People of the Bible on two series of posters available from the Catholic Education Office.

- The Australian Stations of the Cross features Aboriginal artwork and explanations of the symbols used, by Miriam Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann.
- Research task: Find other religious artwork by Aboriginal artists.
- Discussion: Find out what students know about other religions. Discuss the need to respect the spiritual beliefs of all cultures.
- Prepare a prayer or liturgy to thank God for the gifts that all people bring to Australian society.
- Describe / discuss first contact between Europeans and Aboriginal people with particular reference to religious culture:
  - Were there differences in belief?
  - Were there similarities?
  - Were their differences in expression of beliefs?
  - What was the perception of the colonisers of the values of Aboriginal people?
  - What was the perception of the Aboriginal people of the values of the colonisers?
- Listen to Kev Carmody’s song Thou Shalt Not Steal.

Resources

- Crumlin, R. Between the levels : Aboriginal art and spirituality (video). Catholic Communications Centre Commission, Melbourne, 1990. 26min.
- Gill, M. Stations of the cross: an Aboriginal perspective (charts). Matthew Gill, Balgo, 198-?