In Catholic communities and Aboriginal communities, ritual plays an important part in expressing who we are and what we believe in.

- Brainstorm: all of the rituals students know. eg
  - Mass
  - Other church services
  - Baptism
  - First Communion
  - Reconciliation
  - Marriage
  - Funeral
  - Naming days
  - Bar Mitzvah
  - Ramadan

- If the students have not included the rituals of the Aboriginal community lead them to have an understanding that the Aboriginal community has a great number of rituals including:
  - Rites of passage
  - Initiation rites
  - Welcome to Country
  - Handshake
  - Funerals
  - Smoking ceremony
  - Corroboree
  - Marriage customs
  - All Soul’s Day
  - Pentecost
  - Unveiling of the tombstone (Torres Strait and Tiwi Islanders)

- Identify the elements that rituals have in common
  - music
  - dance
  - special words
  - special actions
  - special clothing
  - decoration of venue
  - body decoration
  - symbols
  - leader

- Discuss the significance of ritual in people’s lives today and identify whether they are of a cultural or spiritual nature. Record responses on chart with headings Cultural / Spiritual. Students may come to the decision that a Venn Diagram is needed to do this effectively.

- Brainstorm and then research the rituals of different cultures identifying the significance of the ritual to the culture. Make a chart identifying the culture, ritual and its significance.
• Watch the DVD Kurtal Snake Spirit and discuss the importance of the ceremony to Spider and his family and how it might have changed over the years. Note the roles of various family members.

• Watch Jardiwarnpa: A Warlpiri Fire Ceremony The orchestration of Warlpiri ceremonies in this film challenges the concept that indigenous culture is stagnant.


• Watch an animated story from The Dreaming DVD series such as The Two Wise Men and The Seven Sisters by Josie Boyle and discuss any rituals evident in the storyline.

• Invite an appropriate member of the Aboriginal community into the school through the GECKOS Program to share their knowledge of the ceremonies held by their local communities and how these have changed with time.

• Find examples of rituals where Aboriginal ceremony and Catholic ritual have come together such as Pentecost at Violet Valley, near Warmun and All Soul’s Day at Broome cemetery. http://www.onasia.com/system/quicksearch.aspx?qst=Pentecost&qsp=1&qs=1

• Discuss the special songs that are played at weddings, funerals or birthday celebrations. Students write a story related to a song for one of these rituals.

• Listen to songs that are sung at rituals such as Manikay (song cycle) of Djungguwan, in the Ceremony DVD. Discuss why it is a song ‘cycle’.

• Listen to some hymns that are sung at Mass.

Resources

• Ceremony: The Djungguwan of Northeast Arnhem Land (DVD) Film Australia, Lindfield, NSW, 2006


• Jardiwarnpa, a Walpiri fire ceremony (video) Film Australia, NSW, 2006. 55min.

• Ka-wayawayama: aeroplane dance (video) produced and directed by Trevor Graham. Film Australia, Lindfield, NSW. 1994. 59min


• The Dreaming: a six series collection on DVD (kit). Aboriginal Nations Australia, Sydney. 2004
• Park, L. *Festivals* (Big Book) Scholastic, Lindfield, NSW. 2002