



**Mungo Immersion Reflection ~ Written by Danae Napier**  
**Opening Gathering**

(Everyone seated around our prayer space – photos attached.)

**Prayer:**

Lord, like the disciples on the road,  
may we come with hearts full of questions,  
minds ready to be opened,  
and feet eager to walk the path ahead.

We sit around this prayer table,  
with the shifting sand of Mungo,  
the coolamon that cradles life,  
the message stick that carries story.

This is our story,  
We are pilgrims,  
not just visitors.  
and tonight we begin again  
to walk with You.

Scripture – The Emmaus Story  
Luke 24:13–35  
Pause – allow silence.

**Prayer:**

“Like those disciples, we come with open hearts,  
eager to recognise Jesus along our own road.  
Tonight, we let our feet, eyes, and hearts guide us into prayer.”

## **Seeing – The Beauty of Creation**

(Photo of immersion slideshow with music played in Mungo: A Love Like This by Lauren Daigle.)

Pause ~ reflect.

### **Prayer:**

“Creator Spirit, we saw Your fingerprints in every image -  
the shifting sands of Mungo,  
the silhouettes of ring trees reaching skyward,  
the Murray River winding like a living song through Country.  
The endless sky, the sculpted earth, the ancient trees,  
we saw You.

Each image carries story:  
of ceremony, gathering, belonging, and faith.

You who shaped the sand,  
carved the rivers,  
and painted the sunrise & sunset.  
Let us hold this beauty in our hearts.  
Let it stir our gratitude  
and deepen our care for this sacred land.  
May we hold that beauty in our hearts  
as we begin our own walk.”

### **Transition to Walking**

:

“Tonight we make a pilgrimage across our school grounds.

Each place will hold a story -  
linking Mungo, Indigenous culture, our Catholic faith, our St. Mel’s story.

As we walk, let’s reflect:

What might God want to reveal to me tonight?

What does this land ask of me - as a human, teacher, a leader, a pilgrim?”  
How might my heart be opened, like those disciples, to recognise Jesus walking  
beside me?



**Station 1: Our Friendship Tree**  
(Gather under tree. Pause for silence.)

**Prayer:**

“Our trees at school have seen children grow,  
felt their laughter and tears, felt their feet as they’ve climbed, felt their wonder,  
heard their stories.

The Aboriginal people shaped ring trees to mark sacred gatherings -  
slowly bending branches, over generations,  
reminding us that culture is carried forward patiently.  
Door ways and boundaries marked – traditions & rituals forged.

Scar trees tell stories of careful taking,  
only what was needed,  
never destroying, always leaving life behind. Crafting canoes, coolamon, spears  
with their bark.

Scripture speaks of the tree of life,  
and of Jesus praying among the olive trees.  
Zacchaeus reaching up so high, to get a better view, perspective, and being invited  
to break bread with Jesus and begin again.  
Trees call us to patience, to shelter, to deep roots, to breath.”

Quote: Uncle Jim Berg (Mildura tree) – A symbol of survival & resilience:  
You will hear the people of the Land speak through the trees.  
They tell of what they had, seen through the eyes of the trees.

**Reflective Questions:**

- What do the trees whisper to me?
- What are my favourite memories of trees?
- What am I called to pass on to the children who play here?
- What are our trees a symbol of for me?

## **Station 2: Our Play Bridge**

(Stand on or near the bridge.)

### **Prayer:**

The Murray River is the lifeblood of Country.  
It has given food, water, and a gathering space for thousands of years.

Songs were sung along its banks,  
corroborees danced, fires lit, nets cast.  
Songlines of the land.

Water is never just water - it is life.  
It connects people, feeds Country, and holds story.  
In our faith, water is also holy -  
the Jordan River where Jesus was baptised,  
the living water He offers us,  
and the washing of feet that calls us to serve and love one another.

Here at school, we see how children are drawn to water.  
Through play - splashing, pouring, and investigating -  
children wonder, discover, imagine, and grow.  
We know the benefits of sensory water play -  
how it calms, engages, and helps them learn.

Water invites curiosity.  
It reminds us that learning is meant to flow,  
that joy and discovery can ripple out like waves.  
It reminds us that we, too, are called to be 'living water'  
- bringing refreshment, renewal, and hope to those around us."  
We too need to nourish the land ... quench our thirst... nourish ourselves & others.

### **Reflective Questions:**

- What are the stories around water in my life?
- Where do I see God's living water renewing me?
- How can I be living water for myself, those I teach and lead?

### Station 3: Our Sandpit

(Invite participants to hold some sand in their hands.)

#### Prayer:

“Mungo’s dunes hold footprints older than history books.

Lake Mungo’s dunes have shifted for over 40,000 years,  
telling stories of ancient footprints.

The sand has kept safe the steps of families, hunters, dancers, and mourners.

Mungo Woman and Mungo Man remind us that this land has been sacred  
for over 40,000 years.

This is not empty desert -  
but a place of ceremony, fire, and life.

A place where people gathered,  
told stories, cared for Country,  
and passed wisdom to the next generation.

Jesus too entered the desert -  
to be still,  
to be tested,  
to be found by God.

#### Shifting Sands

As you hold this sand, feel how it slips through your fingers.

It is always moving, always reshaping -  
just like our lives, our teaching, and our children’s learning.  
Sometimes life feels like shifting sand - uncertain, changing,  
but even here, God is present.

Here in the sandpit, our children build castles, dig rivers,  
and discover new worlds in the sandpit.

Their creations don’t last forever -  
but the joy, the wonder, the learning stays with them.

God shapes us the same way - gently, patiently,  
shifting, reshaping, and forming us into who we are called to be.”

Sometimes in the sand it's His footprints we see – it is here that He carries us.

#### Reflective Questions:

- What deserts am I walking through right now?
- Where do I feel the sand shifting under my feet?
- What might God be shaping in me during this season?

## Station 4: Our Labyrinth – The Meeting Place

(Stand together around the circle.)

Prayer:

“Mungo means ‘meeting place.’

This labyrinth is one of our own meeting places-  
where our stories meet,  
where the stories of this land and our Catholic faith come together.

With our stories,  
with our lands' stories,  
with the story of Jesus.

Tonight, we have seen trees,  
touched sand,  
spoken of water.

We have walked with open eyes  
and found Jesus walking with us.

This circle reminds us of what children instinctively know -  
that play is better together,  
that gathering matters,  
that life is meant to be shared.

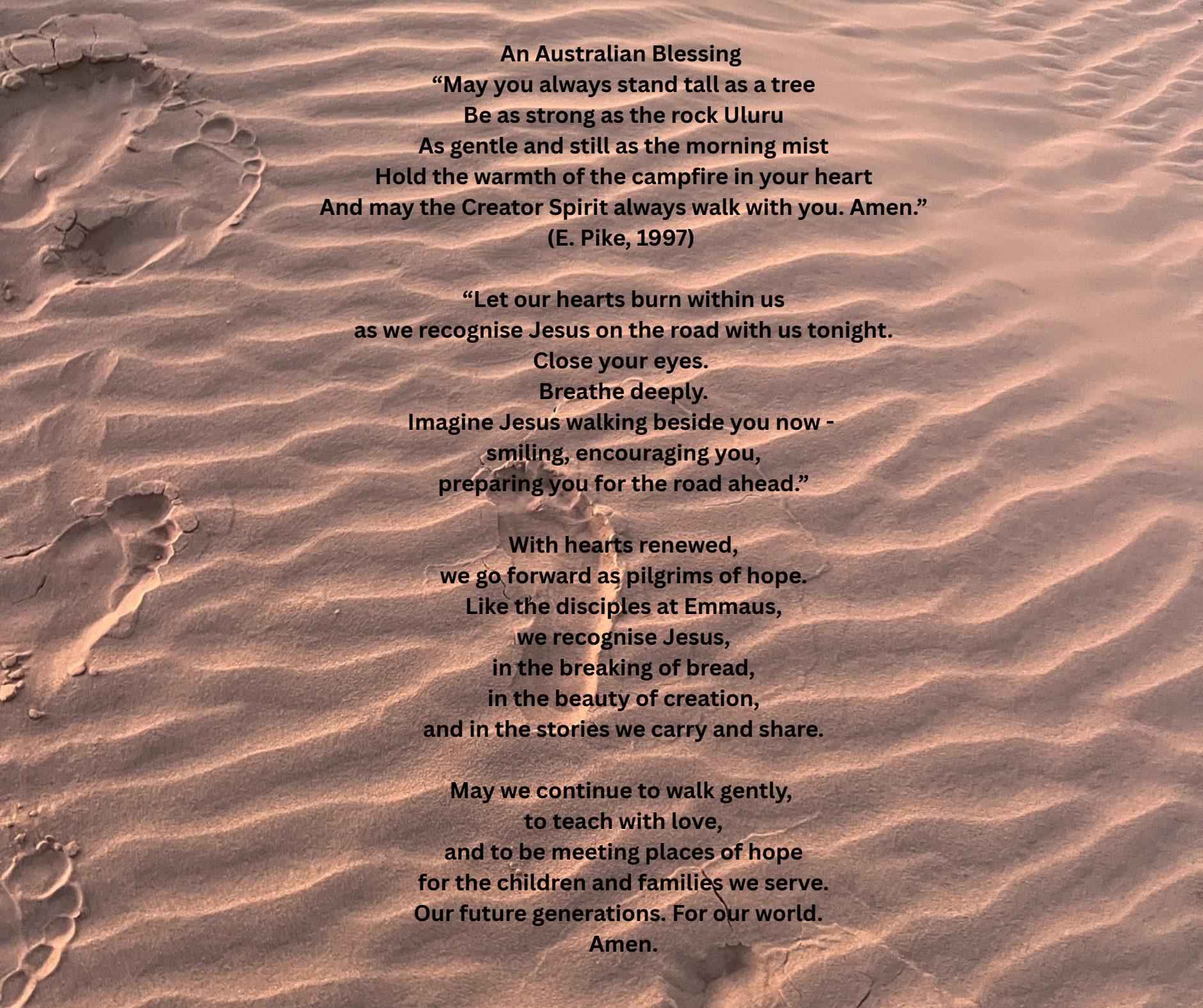
Just like children gather in circles to sing, to learn, to laugh -  
we gather here, as one community,  
to remember who we are and the journey we are on.”

“Let our hearts burn within us  
as we recognise Jesus on the road with us tonight.”

“Close your eyes.

Breathe deeply.

Imagine Jesus walking beside you now -  
smiling, encouraging you,  
preparing you for the road ahead.”

An aerial photograph of a desert landscape with rolling sand dunes. Several footprints are visible in the sand, leading from the bottom left towards the center. The lighting is warm, suggesting a sunset or sunrise, with long shadows and a golden hue.

**An Australian Blessing**  
“May you always stand tall as a tree  
Be as strong as the rock Uluru  
As gentle and still as the morning mist  
Hold the warmth of the campfire in your heart  
And may the Creator Spirit always walk with you. Amen.”  
(E. Pike, 1997)

“Let our hearts burn within us  
as we recognise Jesus on the road with us tonight.  
Close your eyes.  
Breathe deeply.  
Imagine Jesus walking beside you now -  
smiling, encouraging you,  
preparing you for the road ahead.”

With hearts renewed,  
we go forward as pilgrims of hope.  
Like the disciples at Emmaus,  
we recognise Jesus,  
in the breaking of bread,  
in the beauty of creation,  
and in the stories we carry and share.

May we continue to walk gently,  
to teach with love,  
and to be meeting places of hope  
for the children and families we serve.  
Our future generations. For our world.  
Amen.