



7 May 2020

To All Clergy and Parishes of the Diocese of Toowoomba

On Wednesday afternoon (06 May), local Aboriginal Elder Darby McCarthy, died. Darby has been a prominent leader in the community, a staunch advocate of the rights of First Nations peoples, deeply immersed in his own culture, firmly at home in family and good friend to many people in all walks of life.

He will be greatly missed by the racing fraternity: a wonderful jockey with an outstanding record. He will be remembered for his enthusiastic efforts to have the second range crossing named Multuggerah Way. His smiling presence in any gathering always spoke of welcome.

Darby will be deeply missed by his large family, from the far west where he grew up to the east where he lived in more recent years. The death of some people marks the end of an era: Darby was one such person. His life and death will mark a milestone in the journey of his people for justice and truth. His voice was a voice worth listening to.

Darby has always been a good friend of the Church in our diocese. Always willing to meet, to talk, to discuss, to educate. He has often been a compassionate presence in difficult situations of conflict and confrontation. In his gracious humanity, he has walked with us with understanding and patience.

We express our sympathy to his large immediate and extended family.

Details of his funeral will be available in coming days. Information will be circulated to all parishes and communities in the diocese.

Most Reverend Robert M McGuckin

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