



## Fr Pius Jones: 'A very special few days'

**I'm on family land** at Dhumbala on Galawin'ku sitting in the dark under the most amazing sky filled with stars. I am here with the men who are singing and playing clapsticks.

I am here for the funeral of my uncle tomorrow. There will be no photos out of respect.

*Later...*

The ceremonies today were just something to behold. The enormity of the respect they showed me was humbling. I was treated as though my father was my blood Father. I made the mistake of calling him uncle as I was just talking to an uncle when I was writing to you. For most of the day I sat next to my grandfather.

The amazing thing is that all the people here can tell me how I am related to them.

My legs are killing me from sitting cross legged all day! The story telling in song and action is still going on.

I am sleeping under the stars next to the most beautiful beach near my grandmother's house (my Momo).

The most touching part for me was when they called me over to paint me. My clan is the Garrawurra clan and they are equal holders of the law/lore of the Yolungu nations. So I was painted on the face as one of the Garrawurra family.

Such a special day. I sat with the Wawas (brothers) for the ceremonies. Just incredible in their richness and symbolism.

The other special part was when I thanked my Momo for inviting (telling really) to come and she said to me that this is my land.

So, a very special few days...