

ANZAC DAY PRAYER

Saturday 25 April 2020

For Families and other
gatherings of the
Domestic Church

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If anyone serves
me, my Father will
honour him.

Jn 12:26

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Leader: We show our respect and acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, of elders past and present, on which this gathering takes place.

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Gracious and loving God,
the cross of Christ is the sign
of your desire for justice and peace for all.

Open our minds to your vision
as we remember all who suffered
through Australia and New Zealand's involvement
in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

Grant all servicepersons
who sacrificed health and life for the good of all,
the gift of your deep peace.

May we who inherit the freedom for which they fought
become instruments of your peace
in our homes, workplaces and world.

We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

READING

Reader 1: During the First World War, Australia was at war with Germany and Turkey. In 1915 many thousands of soldiers from Australia and New Zealand were in Egypt and Palestine getting ready to attack Turkey. The two armies were known as the ANZACs. This is a name taking the first letters of the words Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

Reader 2: In the cold grey dawn on the 25th of April in 1915, the ANZACs landed on a small strip of beach at Gallipoli, in Turkey's south. They struggled from small boats onto a narrow strip of beach and began to scale steep cliffs. They were attacking the Turkish soldiers who were high up in the rocky cliffs and hills. The Turks fought back with rifles, machine guns and heavy shells – many of our soldiers were killed.

Reader 3: Victory did not come for the ANZACs. Those who survived the first landing fought on against terrible odds, many more were killed and wounded day by day. Eight months later the remnants of that brave army left Gallipoli leaving behind bodies of thousands of their comrades and taking with them many wounded. But the world began to speak with wonder and admiration for those brave men known as the ANZACs who showed that whatever the odds, whatever the price, they would fight for their friends, their country and for freedom.

Reader 4: Anzac Day was originally designed for returned service men and women to come together and share the spirit of mateship that was formed fighting side by side in the trenches overseas. The day means much more than this today, but celebrating the spirit of mateship, the formation of part of the culture of our country, is still central to this day.

GOSPEL *Jn 15:23-26*

Reader 5: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Now the hour has come
for the Son of Man to be glorified.
I tell you, most solemnly,
unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,
it remains only a single grain;
but if it dies,
it yields a rich harvest.
Anyone who loves his life loses it;
anyone who hates his life in this world
will keep it for the eternal life.
If a man serves me, he must follow me,
wherever I am my servant will be there too.
If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.’

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION

Take a few moments to silently reflect upon the words of Oscar Romero who gave his life speaking out in defence of his countrymen.

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“Peace is not the product of terror or fear.

Peace is not the silence of ceremonies.

Peace is not the silent result of violent repression.

Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all
to the good of all.

Peace is dynamism. Peace is generosity.

It is right and it is duty.” *Bishop Oscar Romero 1917-1980*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

Leader: In this time of reflection, we call on our God who is full of love and compassion. Confidently, in the hope of the resurrection we pray:

Reader 6: We pray for all airmen, sailors and soldiers who served and bravely lost their lives in battle during times of conflict, especially members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. May they rest in the peace of Christ and rise in glory on the last day. *(pause)* Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 6: We remember all families, parents and children who lost loved ones through war. May the light of God’s hope and strength comfort them. *(pause)* Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 6: We pray for all engaged in diplomacy around the world. May they always work towards achieving peace through respectful negotiations and a dialogue of mutual understanding. *(pause)* Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 6: We pray for all political leaders. May the Holy Spirit help them to make wise decisions and to build relationships that lead to peace. *(pause)* Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 6: For all affected by the global coronavirus crisis, that the Spirit of peace will fill our locked rooms and hearts and heal our broken lives. *(pause)* God of peace ...

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God of mercy, send forth your Spirit of peace to our world as we ask you to grant our prayers for those who have fallen in war. We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

ODE OF REMEMBRANCE

Reader 7: They went with songs to the battle
They were young, straight of limb,
True of eye, steady and aglow,
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.
They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them. *Laurence Binyon (1869–1943)*

All: We will remember them.

*We listen in silent contemplation to the playing of [The Last Post](#) after which **one minute's silence** is observed.*

Silence is broken by the playing of [The Rouse](#), a short bugle call signifying the resurrection of the body after death, and the awakening of the soul into new life.

Reader 7: Lest we forget.

All: Lest we forget.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

 [Advance Australia Fair](#)

**All: Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are young and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.**

**Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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Commemorative music: mp3 files of 'The Last Post', 'The Rouse' and 'Advance Australia Fair' available at <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/commemoration/event-planning/music>