

Remembrance Day prayer and reflection

Acknowledgement of Land

We acknowledge the First Nation Peoples of these lands, seas and waterways on which we gather. The First Nations Peoples of these places were the first to dance stories and remember times of healing and hurt. We acknowledge the elders past and present, and future and know that these lands, seas and waterways, always were, are and will always be, the land of the First Nations Peoples.

Context - What is Remembrance day

At 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month each year we remember the moment in 1918 when World War I came to an end. On Remembrance Day, we remember Australian men and women who have served in war and peacekeeping activities. Remembrance Day does not glorify war – it honours the memory of all those who laid down their lives for Australia. As a mark of respect to those who have served, we stop to observe one minute's silence.

This year will mark the 104th anniversary of the Armistice, which ended the First World War. One thing we can do for the people who fought for our country, is to continue the tradition of remembering them.

Scripture

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

(John 15:12-17)

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis' message on the World Day of Peace 2022 states:

Today the path of peace, which Saint Paul VI called by the new name of integral development, [1] remains sadly distant from the real lives of many men and women and thus from our human family, which is now entirely interconnected. Despite numerous efforts aimed at constructive dialogue between nations, the deafening noise of war and conflict is intensifying. While diseases of pandemic proportions are spreading, the effects of climate change and environmental degradation are worsening, the tragedy of hunger and thirst is increasing, and an economic model based on individualism rather than on solidary sharing continues to prevail. As in the days of the prophets of old, so in our own day the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth [2] constantly make themselves heard, pleading for justice and peace.

In every age, peace is both a gift from on high and the fruit of a shared commitment. Indeed, we can speak of an “architecture” of peace, to which different institutions of society contribute, and an “art” of peace that directly involves each one of us. [3] All can work together to build a more peaceful world, starting from the hearts of individuals and relationships in the family, then within society and with the environment, and all the way up to relationships between peoples and nations.

Full message can be read [here](#).

Reflection – Tree of Life sung by Gen Bryant

As you listen to Gen sing about the Tree of Life, think about:

- How can you be a person of peace?
- What could you do to bring peace to your community?
- What could your community do to make our world a more peaceful place?

Remembering

At 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month every year, we stop to remember those men and women who died not only in that long four-year battle, but in every war and peacekeeping operations.

It is now 104 years since armistice was called and the guns fell silent and World War I came to an end. It was the hour for peace.

We come together as a nation, in silence and in prayer, to remember all those who have served in all wars. As we remember the lives that have been lost, we pray and hope for peace and pledge to each other to work towards peace in our world. We, particularly, remember the people in Ukraine who are suffering through so much unrest and hurt.

Prayer for Ukraine – National Council of Churches in Australia can be read [here](#).

The Last Post

In military tradition, the Last Post is the bugle call that signifies the end of the day's activities. It is also sounded at military funerals to indicate that the soldier has gone to his final rest and at commemorative services such as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day.

<https://www.army.gov.au/our-heritage/traditions/last-post>

We [play the Last Post](#) as we pray our soldiers can rest in peace.

Royal Australian Air force [youtube](#)

Recitation of the ode

The Ode is the fourth stanza of Laurence Binyon's poem 'For The Fallen'. We stand and read this, honouring those who have died with a minute's silence.

*They shall grow not 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*

Action

Find some time on Remembrance Day to be a person of peace:

- Learn more about the Ode by reading [Laurence Binyon's 'For the Fallen'](#) and the inspiration for the verse.
- Listen to the [Prayer of St Francis by Sarah McLachlan](#)
- Learn about the [UN International Day of Peace and](#) consider what you could do next year to be an advocate of peace.

Adapted from Catholic Education Diocese of Cairns 2020

<https://www.cns.catholic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Remembrance-Day-Prayer-and-Reflection-for-Parents-2020.pdf>