

Across the Diocese of Ballarat, Avenues of Honour, War Memorials and Cenotaphs stand in town after town, each a tribute to service, sacrifice and courage.

The Ballarat Avenue of Honour is Australia's longest Avenue of Honour. It spans 22 km with 3,771 trees, each planted with a plaque dedicated to the individual men and women from Ballarat who enlisted their services in World War 1.

The Warrnambool Soldier's Memorial is a beautiful piece of monumental masonry erected at a cost of about £3500. It stands 36 ft. high and consists of three Harcourt granite steps, polished Balmoral red and grey Harcourt granite pedestal with a segmental base on top of which stands the figure of a soldier in white marble 6 ft. high, with arms at the reverse. The expression of infinite sadness on the soldier's stern face is a fine example of the sculptor's art. The base of the pedestal bears the following inscription: "Hallowed to the memory of the gallant men and women who fell in the great war, 1914-1918, for the freedom of the world. Then shall they stand before the throne an exceeding great army, and in that last muster shall be found there our own beloved."

The Swan Hill War Memorial is a white-painted concrete cenotaph on which is a white marble tablet which includes the names of soldiers from the district who lost their lives in the First World War, down either side of which is a black marble tablet inscribed with the fallen from World War 2 and Korea.

The memorial was expanded with the WW2 names and officially unveiled by Sir Dallas Brooks on 23rd May 1958.

And so many more - <https://vwma.org.au/>

On ANZAC Day, we pause to reflect, as communities of learning and faith, and remember.

*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. Let us pray to the Lord.*

*We remember all families, parents and children who lost loved ones through war. May the light of God's hope and strength comfort them. Let us pray to the Lord.*

*Prayer from Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference*

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**Local Catholic parishes, community groups and schools in the Diocese commemorated ANZAC Day with morning Masses and community ceremonies across the towns and communities.**

#### **Trinity College Colac:**

On the morning of April 24, fifteen student leaders from Years 7–10 attended the All Schools ANZAC Day Service at Memorial Square, laying wreaths alongside peers from other local schools.

In the afternoon, the whole school gathered in the hall to honour the sacrifice of the men and women who have served in armed conflicts. Our College House Captains laid wreaths at the front of the assembly, and students stood in respectful silence as The Last Post echoed throughout the campus.



## St Brigid's Primary School, Ballan

A number of students, families and staff members attended the ANZAC Day services in Ballan. School Captains Marcus, Anaya, Reina and Grace presented a meaningful speech at the Dawn Service. We then participated in the ANZAC Day March in the afternoon. Thank you to all those able to attend.

'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.' Lest we forget.





## **St Joseph's College Mildura**

It is every Australian's responsibility to preserve the ANZAC legacy in their own way. At the College, we were fortunate enough to host representatives from the Mildura RSL and contribute once again to Mildura's ANZAC Day observances.

### *ANZAC Day Assembly*

Students and staff welcomed members of the Mildura Returned and Services League to the College ANZAC Day Assembly on Thursday 23 April. Under sunny skies, our College Captains and Vice-Captains led a moving ceremony focused on honouring alumni who served in the Defence Force in times of conflict and peace.

After the Captains read the names listed on the Honour Roll and recited both Psalm 23 and 'In Flanders Fields', we welcomed special guest speaker Mr John Searle. After graduating from St Joseph's College in 1961, Mr Searle served in the Vietnam War. In his role as the Mildura RSL's Education Officer, he has taught young people about Australian military history and the importance of our country's armed services personnel, as well as their service and their sacrifice. Mr Searle also volunteers his time and effort in support of other veterans through the Sunraysia Regional Veterans Centre.

As he spoke, Mr Searle reminded us all that it is everyone's responsibility to preserve the legacy that our servicemen and -women have worked so hard to establish. By way of an example, he mentioned the students who participated in 2025's public ceremonies and commended them.

If you recall, ANZAC Day 2025 was an unusually rainy day in Sunraysia. However, despite the downpour, our students fulfilled their duties and showed enormous respect for the memory of those soldiers who gave their lives in service. By doing so, they honoured themselves, their families, and our College.

It was an honour to host Mr Searle and the other veterans. We thank them for their service and for helping us preserve the ANZAC legacy in our community.



### *Community Observances*

On ANZAC Day itself, several of our students participated in the War Graves ceremony at Nichols Point. They represented the College admirably and showed great respect on this poignant occasion. At the Henderson Park War Memorial, a small group of St Joseph's College students joined with students from other schools to lay a wreath of rosemary.





### **St Patrick's College Ballarat**

Saturday, April 25 marks a significant day for Australia as we united, acknowledged and gave thanks to those men and women who went into conflicts so that we have the opportunity to live in this special country. ANZAC Day is our opportunity to reflect and importantly acknowledge those who sacrificed their lives for all Australians.

The College held its ANZAC liturgy on Thursday, April 23. it was a special gathering and allowed staff and students to pay their respect to our ANZAC. Mr John Richards shared a reflection for the gathering.

On Saturday, the commitment of the St Patrick's Community continued with a number of staff and students involved in the various Ballarat ANZAC services and commemorations. The ANZAC Parade procession was again led by the St Patrick's College Marching Band, which they did with pride and respect. Student captains George, Cam and Taj laid a wreath at the cenotaph. Earlier, members of the Student Council had attended both the Dawn Service and a service at the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial.

As one of the schools within the Ballarat region, it is important for the College to maintain a visible presence at the ANZAC ceremonies, and appreciation is extended to the many staff and students for their commitment and attendance. LEST WE FORGET.



## St Mary's Primary School, Swan Hill

On Saturday, 25 April 2026, we pause as a nation to remember and honour all those who have served, and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the peace and freedom we enjoy today. ANZAC Day remains an important opportunity for us to reflect, give thanks and pay our respects.

At St Mary's, students have been learning about the meaning and significance of ANZAC Day. Families joined staff and student leaders for the ANZAC March and 11.00am service at the cenotaph. It was wonderful to see such strong attendance, especially on a weekend.

The School Captains represented St Mary's beautifully at the ANZAC Day ceremony and did a terrific job with their reading and wreath-laying roles.

We thank everyone who joined us for this special day, and we also appreciate the staff who were there to support this important community event.

