



Anzac dedication

(traditionally starts an Anzac Day dawn or commemoration service)

On this day, 106 years ago, the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC), at Gallipoli, made immortal the name of Anzac. They established an imperishable tradition of selfless service, of devotion to duty, and of fighting for all that is best in human relationships.

We who are gathered here today remember with gratitude the men and women who have given, and are still giving, in our armed and supporting services, all that is theirs to give, in order that the world may be a nobler place in which to live.

And with them, we remember those who were left behind to bear the sorrow of their loss.

Let us therefore dedicate ourselves to taking up the burdens of the fallen. With the same high courage and steadfastness with which they went into battle, may we set our hands to the tasks they left unfinished. Let us dedicate ourselves to the service of the ideals for which they died.

Let us, with God's help, give our utmost to make the world what they would have wished it to be – a better and happier place for all people, through whatever means are open to us.

Commemoration prayer

Loving Father,

We gather to remember the sacrifices made by the original Anzacs and countless others in times of war and peace. We recognise before you the courage, determination and commitment of those who have fought for our country, seeking justice and peace for all.

We pray for those who have survived conflict, especially those who carry the scars of war in their minds and bodies. Be with them. Strengthen them.

We remember those, mainly women and children, who suffered and continue to suffer, just because they happened to be in a conflict zone. May they know your overwhelming peace.

Be with the heartbroken – the spouses, parents, families and friends, who endure the grief of knowing their loved ones will never return. Bring them comfort, we pray.

We grieve for those who have been so destroyed by what they experienced in service of their country that they have found no other option but to end their lives, rather than continue to struggle with the deep pain they carried. Be with those who loved them – those left behind, shattered by their death. May they, through your Holy Spirit, know your grace, comfort and peace.

We also pray for those who struggle with their service, be that in the past or the present. Be with them today. Give us the strength and assurance that we can walk alongside those who are struggling and offer them reassurance and hope in our actions and words.

May we, in our families, churches and communities, strive to practice reconciliation, understanding and peace each day to bring about the transformation of our world. May we continue to build a nation where our differences are embraced as strengths, where our workplaces are free from harassment and discrimination, and where we resolve to seek the wellbeing of all peoples who make this land their home.

May your grace enable us this day to dedicate ourselves to the cause of justice, freedom and peace; and give us the wisdom and strength to build a better world.

We pray this in and through your Son Jesus' name, amen.

Dedication and commemoration prayer written by Major Brett Gallagher, Chief Commissioner, Red Shield Defence Services.