

— ANZAC DAY —

LEST WE FORGET



Anzac dedication

(Traditionally starts an Anzac Day dawn or commemoration service)

On this day, 109 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 remember with deep gratitude the men and women who have given, and those still giving, in our armed and supporting services, all that is theirs to give, so that the world may be a nobler place.

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

Let us therefore dedicate ourselves to taking up the burdens of the fallen. With the same 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. And let us, with God's help, give our utmost to make the world the place that they would have wished it to be – a better and happier place for all people, through whatever means are open to us.

Acknowledgement of Country

with armed service recognition

We acknowledge God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, and God's ownership of all things. We recognise that God gave stewardship of these lands upon which we gather to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this country.

We pay our respects to these Traditional Custodians, and their Elders, past and present, and emerging. We are thankful for the knowledge they hold that has sustained and protected this country since God created it.

I would also like to acknowledge the long and proud history of Indigenous service where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women have contributed and still contribute to the defence of our nation in times of peace and war.

We acknowledge their cultures and connection with this land, waters and sky and are thankful for the community that we now share. We commit to building a brighter future through reconciliation, unity, equity and mutual flourishing.

Commemoration prayer

Loving Triune God,

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

We pray for those who have survived conflict, especially those who carry the scars of their service in their souls, minds and bodies. Be with them. Strengthen and encourage them. Let them know that there are people committed to standing alongside them to see them well.

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 you are with them and the peace of mind that comes with your presence.

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 and peace, 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. We cannot understand the deep pain that they carried. Be with those who loved them — those left behind who continue to be impacted 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 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 the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.

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