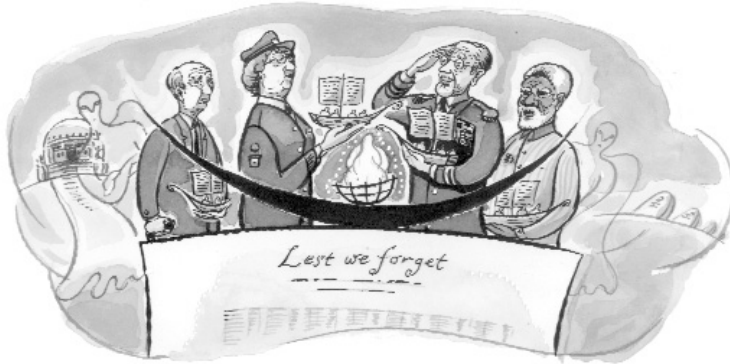


Prayer for Anzac Day

(April 25)



This prayer can be used either on Anzac Day (25 April) or a day close to it. You can buy a recording of the Last Post and Reveille from the RSL (Australia) in your capital city, or the RSA (New Zealand). Both are used in our prayer today. Wear medals and bring any other memorabilia to be placed in a special place in the prayer space. The prayer table could be draped with an Australian and/or New Zealand flag, and on it placed a single lighted candle.

In the days before Anzac Day or before using the prayer, children might make red poppies to wear.

Prepare one or two short accounts telling of people who, in times of war, helped the wounded and the dead.

Introduction

Today is Anzac Day. It is a day when we remember in a special way all Australians and New Zealanders who have died in war. People like Weary Dunlop and the man we call Simpson (and his donkey) come to mind today, but we also remember all those women and men who served their countries in war, and whose names we do not know.

We remember this past history of war, and pray that, in the future, all people will work to make peace, not war.

We begin our prayer today by lighting our candle and listening to the *Last Post*. This was played on the bugle at night time as a signal that it was time for the soldiers to rest. Let us stand now, remembering those who are now sleeping in death.

✚ All make the Sign of the Cross.

[Play the recording of the *Last Post*.]

Reading

Isaiah 2:2-5

Let us listen to Isaiah's great dream of peace:

In the future, the mountain with the Lord's temple

will be the highest of all.

It will reach above the hills,

every nation will rush to it.

Many people will come and say,

"Let's go to the mountain of the Lord God of Jacob and worship in his temple."

The Lord will teach us his Law from Jerusalem and we will obey him.

He will settle arguments between nations.

They will beat their swords and spears

into rakes and shovels;

they will never make war or attack one another.

People of Israel, let's live by the light of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

[If you have prepared accounts of people who helped the wounded and the dead, read them now.]

Closing

LEADER

Please respond to each petition:
"Hear our prayer, God of peace."

For the many women and men of Australia and New Zealand who died during war:

Hear our prayer, God of peace.

For people who are still suffering from wars of the past:

Hear our prayer, God of peace.

For children whose families have died during war:

Hear our prayer, God of peace.

For children who have been separated from their families because of war:

Hear our prayer, God of peace.

For people and nations suffering from today's wars:

Hear our prayer, God of peace.

For all people working for peace between nations:

Hear our prayer, God of peace.

Let us pray with the words that Jesus taught us:

Our Father ...

LEADER

We conclude our prayer as we listen to 'The Ode' and Reveille (*re-VELL-ee*), which was the wake-up call for the soldiers. As we listen, we pray quietly that the dead will awake to new life in Christ.

READER

They shall grow not old
as we who are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and at the morning
we will remember them.

[Play the recording of the *Reveille*.]

LEADER

Lest we forget.

ALL

Lest we forget.

LEADER

May we live in the peace of Christ. Amen.

✠ All make the Sign of the Cross.

[Put out the candle.]