

ANZAC Day 2020

Context

The ANZAC tradition was established on 25 April 1915 when the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) landed on Gallipoli Peninsula. Lasting 8 months, the conflict at Gallipoli saw 25 000 Australian casualties and 8 700 deaths from the battle or disease.

ANZAC Day is a public holiday and is typically celebrated with dawn services, street marches, rituals and gatherings to honour the those who paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. In 2020, ANZAC Day will be different. On Saturday 25 April 2020, we are being asked to stand in our driveways or on our balconies to solemnly remember those Australians and New Zealanders who served their countries by fighting at Gallipoli and in subsequent wars.

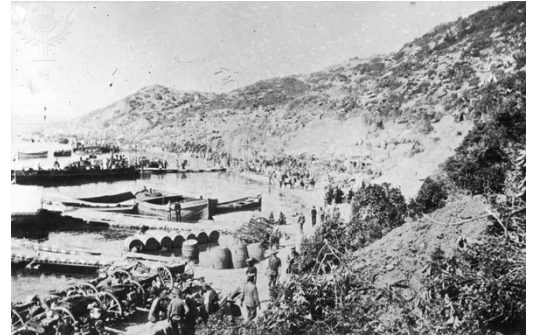


Figure 1 Gallipoli Landing. Photographer. Britannica ImageQuest, Encyclopædia Britannica, 25 May 2016.

As you stand with your neighbors you might like to:

- wear a sprig of rosemary for remembrance
- hold a candle, the flame a symbol of hope or
- share the prayers that follow for those who have died and those who continue to suffer

Opening Prayer

God of peace

You sent your Son Jesus to show us the way out of conflict. As we navigate this new Easter path during the time of Coronavirus, we ask your blessing on all those who have fought and continue to fight in the name of their country. We ask for your guidance as we work for peace in our time and peace in our lands.

We make this prayer through Christ, the Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Laying of Wreath, Wearing Rosemary or Lighting a Candle

If we were gathering as a community we would now spend time laying a wreath in honour of those who have died. Perhaps as a family, you could make your own wreath from cuttings from the garden. Perhaps you have some rosemary that you could arrange in a vase. Or you could light a candle to remember those who have fought and continue to fight.

God of peace, God of comfort, we honour all those who have laid down their lives for the protection and wellbeing of others. We remember especially those men and women from the Cairns Diocese. May the sacrifice of their lives stir us to work for peace in our own communities and throughout the world. May all who grieve the loss of loved ones through war and oppression, find comfort.

Amen.



Figure 2 Anzac Day. Photographer. Britannica ImageQuest, Encyclopædia Britannica, 25 May 2016.

Gospel

(Jn 10: 27-30)

A reading from the Gospel according to John

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Reflection

In this Gospel, John uses the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. If we follow, then, even during hardship and hurt, we will not be alone. This image of constant companionship and dependability is often depicted in movies, books and recounts of wartime. In Australia, we would add the notion of mateship, the sense that no one is left behind, that we have each others' back, that we are one. During this time of Coronavirus, some reporters have used the language of war to describe what is happening around the world: desolation; despair and depression. This ANZAC day we suffer with all those who have suffered during wars. Those men who fought and lost their lives at Gallipoli; those who died on the

fields, in the boats and in the air of WWII; the men and women who ventured into uncharted territory in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan; and all the peace-keepers who have worked throughout the world endeavouring to liberate and bring hope to those who have been oppressed.

As we journey through this extraordinary Easter Season, we remember that Christ conquered death and by his resurrection embraces us all in his promise of eternal life. Love is stronger than death, stronger than anything. Our call is to respond to that love and to work for peace.

Community Prayers

In a world where so many live in fear of being hurt or killed in war, of going hungry because of war, and of losing their homes and loved ones, we ask our God to listen to our prayers.

We pray for our world. Help all people to work for peace and not war. Hear us, loving God.

Make us people of peace.

We pray for our country, Australia and New Zealand. Help us value our freedom, the beauty of our land and our way of life. Hear us, loving God.

Make us people of peace.

We pray for all families of soldiers who have gone to war. Be with them in their worry and their grief. Hear us, loving God.

Make us people of peace.

We pray for Australian soldiers who have died. May they rest in peace with you. Hear us, loving God.

Make us people of peace.

Loving God, hear our prayers as we strive to be peace-loving people. Heal our world and heal the hearts of those who cannot love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Concluding Prayer

God of peace, God of life. May we learn from the suffering of our past and strive to live by the values of Your Kingdom. We ask this through Jesus who shows us the way of peace.

Amen



Figure 3 Accessed from Pixabay

The Last Post and one minute of silence

If you are able, play a rendition of the last post now before a minute silence where we are invited to pray for our ANZACS and all those who have been involved in war in any way.

The Ode

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.

We will remember them.

Lest we forget.

Lest we forget.



The Ode

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