

Prayers 25 April

IN RESPONSE TO THE MESSAGE:

Heavenly Father on this Anzac Day we think of many who have laid down their life for us, and yet not of their own choosing or timing. We want to say thank you today for Jesus who had authority to lay down his life and authority to take it up again and in so doing, beat sin, beat death, beat the evil one, and brought us to you. We thank you that Jesus is now our Good Shepherd whom we can encounter every day. We pray heavenly Father that we might learn all the more how to rest in him, to run to him, to follow him as our Shepherd; so that our song might also be: "The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I want". We ask this in his name. **Amen.**

ANZAC DAY

O God, our ruler and guide, In whose hands are the destinies of this and every nation, we give you thanks for the freedoms we enjoy in this land and for those who laid down their lives to defend them: We pray that we and all the people of Australia, gratefully remembering their courage and their sacrifice, may have the grace to live in a spirit of justice, of generosity, and of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

MEMBERS OF THE DEFENCE FORCE

Gracious Lord, we pray for our fellow Australians who have served in the Defence Forces. We thank you for the sacrifices they have made and acknowledge the burden that both they and their family have carried. We particularly bring before you today those families impacted by the suicide of returned service men and women. Please comfort and strengthen them in their burden of grief. We pray that the Royal Commission established this week will provide solutions as to how we can better care for returned service men and women. We pray for returned personnel who right at this moment are struggling with anxiety and depression through the impact of PTSD. Please help them to find the assistance they need, and ultimately, that help which comes from knowing Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life. This we ask in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

THOSE IN NEED:

Loving Lord, we pray for those in our congregation and our families who are sick or struggling. Where it is your will, would you please in your power and mercy, heal and restore them? Give wisdom to doctors and other health professionals caring for them so that they might have the best possible treatment. Help us to know how we can best support them. Above all, please comfort them and assure them of your presence with them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**