

## Easter VI

Prayer Reflection ANZAC DAY April 252016
When I was a small boy I went to Martin Place in Sydney to the Cenotaph there.

I saw the slouch hat for the first time and the men in khaki uniforms. An old lady near me said, "That's our boys". I felt a swell of pride then and I still do. Today we would say boys and girls in an almost inclusive world.
"Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). These words appear on Anzac boards all across my country. They are words of Christ, but all creeds and colours of humanity can acknowledge them.

This day celebrates a useless war which created heroes on both sides. It is a haunting memory on all sides that fought and for those who remember. Today a global war goes on all the time. It is an enormous struggle against ingraining violent reactions into our thought processes, deliberately incited by those who enact unimaginable cruelties. Some do it in the name of God, the greatest of horrors because it kills the crown of the Creator' handiwork. It is part of a huge attack on the flow of thoughts that lead to peace and it takes up years of our life in our endless hours of inner ravings because of it. The perpetrators want us to become like them in our reactions, and that would be like acid rain on our souls.

We pray that we may remember them and in so doing join them in the struggle against those who would enter our minds and spirits and fill us with reactions to diminish our capacity to love and to really live. The global and local bullies of humanity want to scare us and then to blame us for our resistance to their tactics. Bullies of all stripes use the same tactics. It has always been the same but the cycle can be broken. We pray to God and to the best of humanity to join us in the greatest battle of all against the perversion of the human psyche. Once that happens our minds become the playgrounds of all sorts of evil and consequent reactions that cause harm on the earth.

Let us lift our sights and pray for a better tomorrow and act against the perversion of our souls. This is an endless struggle and this service is a banquet of honour for all those who preceded us and gave their all to keep the flame of hope alive within humanity.

## Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:
Wednesday.

- Bible Study, 10:00am
- Group Discussion, 7:30pm
Thursday.
- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:
Acts 16:16-34
Psalm 68
Revelation 22:12-14,16-17, 20
John 17:20-26

