



Perpetual Day of Remembrance

Shine the Light
of Christ

Resources for Agencies, Groups,
Householders, Individuals

Friday 15 September 2023

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as Australia's First Peoples and the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we work to build a stronger, more equitable, kinder society that values children, young people, families and individuals.

We honour the wisdom of and pay respect to, Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the spiritual culture of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia.

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is located on the traditional lands of the Awabakal, Biripi, Darkinjung, Kamilaroi, Wiradjuri, Wonnarua and Worimi people.

This diocese acknowledges the important Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander occupation and care of the land on which we live. We acknowledge our Traditional Custodians' continual spiritual and cultural connection to Country. We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as having been on this land for over 60,000 years.

This is the acknowledgement made in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan launched on 18 August 2022.





Ode to the Light of Christ

Come, let us walk in the Light of the Lord.
Let us not fear the past
when our hearts were heavy. (Is. 2:5)
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.

Come, let us bring light from the darkness.
Let us make evil good
and find sweet in the bitter. (Is. 5:20)
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.

Come, let us weep together
when the light grew dark with the clouds,
from the darkness and distress. (Is. 5:30)
Let us Shine the Light of Christ.

Come, let us walk with our brothers and sisters,
those who have walked in darkness. (Is. 9:2)
Let them see the great Light of God
and let us Shine the Light of Christ.

'Shine the Light of Christ' 2023

Introduction

This year we have endeavoured to simplify our resources for the *Perpetual Day of Remembrance*. All are available on the [diocesan website](#). (Click on the Prayer Response '+') They include:

- The parish resource which focuses on Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday, marked in parishes on the weekend of 9 – 10 September.
- A resource for schools
- Station of the Cross – We Lament and We Hope – available as both a Master Order of Service and People's Booklet
- Background and Timeline of the development of the *Perpetual Day of Remembrance* now simplified as a one-page diagram.
- This resource for agencies, groups, households and individuals.

We hope this resource provides enough prayer options to accommodate the rich diversity of people and groups who wish to and need to pray in response to our Church's tragic experience of sexual abuse.

Central to our Catholic faith is the scriptural imperative: where one member of the Body of Christ suffers, we all suffer. [1 Cor 12:26]

So let those of us who can pray, do so, wherever and however we are most comfortable. Let us pray that we will be changed as we continue to engage in the daily process of conversion so that we live more truly in the light of God's love.

From the following options we hope you find one that enables you to pray.

In the Light of Your Love

This prayer is one of the permanent elements of the Perpetual Day of Remembrance. You might like to light a candle and pray it.

God with us,
you have made us in your image,
and filled us with the breath of your divine life.
Through the life of Jesus
you show us the way to live in the light of your love.

Create a clean heart in us O God.

Where people are disempowered
may we shine the light of your justice.
Where there is privilege and prestige
may we shine the light of your humility.
Where there is dishonesty and denial
may we shine the light of your truth.
Where transparency is lacking, and agendas are hidden,
may we shine the light of your integrity.

Where there is fear
 may we shine the light of your courage.
Where there is judgement
 may we shine the light of your compassion.
Where there is disrespect
 may we shine the light of your love.
Where people feel silenced
 may we shine the light of your word.
Where people feel excluded
 may we shine the light of your acceptance.
Where there is sin
 may we shine the light of your forgiveness.

Create a clean heart in us O God.

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Music and song options

Sometimes listening to songs or hymns or music is our prayer.

- [A Rightful Place](#) by Steve Angrisano.
- [10,000 Reasons \(Bless the Lord\)](#) by Steve Angrisano. This one is not as strongly connected but might work for you.
- [The Commons: Christ our Light has Come](#) by Steve Angrisano and Curtis Stephan. The immediate context for this one is Christmas. It picks up the strong PDoR themes of light and darkness. It provides an opportunity to reflect on the deep truth that the cradle and the cross are all part of the one Paschal Mystery of Christ.
- [We Turn To You](#) by Michael Mangan.
- [If Not Now](#) by Carrie Newcomer. The song is about a change of heart.
- [We Sing for Those Whose Song is Silent](#) by John Bell. Thanks to Anne Millard, Cath Mahony and the Communications Team it is available on the diocesan website in two forms: [video](#) and [audio file](#).
- This year Zimmerman Service Healing and Support have worked with Elizabeth Seysener, a survivor from the Clergy Abused Network (CAN), and Composer David Banney, to commission a piece of music titled 'The Innocents'. There is a recording available on the diocesan website as an [audio file](#).

'Ode to the Light of Christ'

Found on p 3. This can be used for personal or communal prayer, or as part of a more formal prayer. If the latter, in keeping with the traditional way we proclaim an Ode, for example on Anzac Day, we recommend that it be read by one person and listened to by the community.

Sunday Mass for September 10 (including the Saturday night Vigil)

In 2023, *Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday* falls on Sunday September 10.

As a community of faith, we can do nothing better than bring the diocesan *Perpetual Day of Remembrance* to our celebration of eucharist; to join our story of abuse and suffering to Christ's offering, that the light of the Paschal Mystery will convert our hearts and lead us forward in faith and hope.

If you would like to join in a parish Mass on this weekend you are most welcome.

Mass for September 15 – Our Lady of Sorrows (Memorial)

September 15 falls on Friday this year. It is the Twenty-Fourth Week of Ordinary Time and the memorial for Our Lady of Sorrows.

You are welcome to join the parish community on the day. Parish Mass times can be found on the diocesan [website](#) or the Diocesan [App](#).

Healing and Support

The Zimmerman Service Healing and Support Team provides support and assistance to survivors and their relatives. To engage with this service please call 49230636 or email ZimmermanService@healingandsupport.org.au.

To commemorate Perpetual Day of Remembrance 2023, Zimmerman House at 5 Selma St, Newcastle West will be open for survivors and relatives from 12-4pm on the 15 September for those who wish to drop in. Please see the [flyer](#) for further details.

The Healing and Support Team are also available should our prayer response cause distress for any person, please make contact as above.

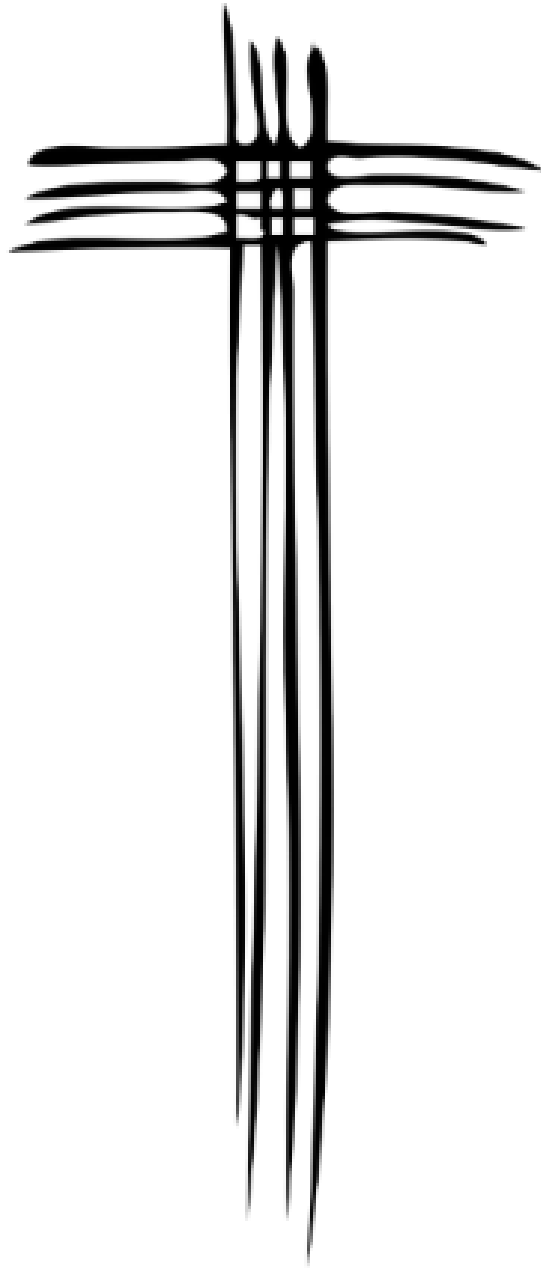
There will be a review of prayer resources for people to complete after the day. We appreciate your feedback.

Thank you for your commitment to stand with our brothers and sisters who are suffering, including those who have died. Thank you too for your commitment to shine the light of Christ in our Church and neighbourhoods. Together we can be a sign of hope.

Louise Gannon rsj, Diocesan Manager Worship and Prayer

With the Diocesan Liturgy Council and the Standing Committee: Perpetual Day of Remembrance.

Allen Brierley, Monique Crick, Fiona Duque, Uta France, Louise Gannon, Daniel Lee, Petrina Massey, Magda Mycak, Cathy White, Ed Wright, [Andrew Slater].



Acknowledgements

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Shine the Light of Christ

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