

## **Staff Prayer Ritual in the week of ANZAC Day: Handout**

### **We Gather**

*Welcome & Introduction*

*Sign of the Cross*

*Lighting of the 3 Candles*

*Opening Prayer*

Leader: Let us pray ...

All: God of love and liberty,  
we thank you for the peace and security we enjoy.

It was won for us through the courage and devotion of those  
who gave their lives in time of war.

We pray that their labour and sacrifice may not be in vain,  
but that their spirit may live on in us and in generations to come.  
We ask this prayer in the name of Jesus  
and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



### **We Listen**

*Scripture Reading*

Reader: *A reading from the Gospel of John (Jn 12: 23-24)*

Jesus replied,  
“Now the hour has come  
for the Chosen One to be glorified.  
The truth of the matter is,  
unless a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies,  
it remains only a single grain;  
but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.”

### **The Rising Sun Badge**

Reader: One of the mainsprings of an army is its esprit-de-corps - that spirit which gives a soldier purpose and the endurance to carry on when others might give up. In the prolonged and bitter struggles of World War 1 and World War 2, the soldiers of the 1st and 2nd AIF (Australian Imperial Forces) had this esprit-de-corps, and its focal point was a humble badge. The so-called ‘Rising Sun’ badge, worn on the up-turned brim of a slouch hat, typified the spirit of ANZAC - the camaraderie of Australian soldiers to fight for the Crown and the British Empire.

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### **Sharing**

Leader: What connections can you see resonating in these two readings?



## ***We Respond***

*A time of Silent Remembrance*

### *Recitation of 'The Ode'*

All:            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!

*The Ode comes from For the Fallen, a poem by the English poet and writer Laurence Binon and was published in London in The Wincing Fan: Poems of the Great War in 1914. This verse, which became the Ode for the Returned and Services League, has been used in association with commemoration services in Australia since 1921.*

### *Closing Prayer*

Leader:        Let us pray ...

All:            God of our Mothers and Fathers,  
we pray for the peace of the world.  
We especially entrust to your mercy the homeless and refugees;  
those who have been dispossessed through war;  
those whose lives and families have been disrupted;  
and who mourn the loss of loved ones.  
We pray for countries who are war-torn even today.  
May sanity return and kindness win through wherever there is warfare.  
We ask our prayers through Jesus Christ. Amen

## ***We Go Forth***

*Blessing*

*Dismissal*

*Sign of Peace*

