

BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION
CENOTAPH CEREMONY MARTIN PLACE SYDNEY
WEDNESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2021

PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

We gather in gratitude and remembrance, as we remember the dark days more than three quarters of a century ago when Australia faced the threat of invasion.

As we join in prayer, we hold in our hearts colleagues and friends who have died in the last twelve months and those who are unable to be with us today because of illness or infirmity. We acknowledge their service and honour them.

we remember and hold in our hearts those who are currently serving in our armed forces, and pray that they may be kept safe under your protection, O God.

We remember the service personnel who answered the call to arms and who served in the various theatres of war, particularly in Papua New Guinea and the northern areas of Australia.

We remember those who died in the conflict or as a result of injuries; we remember those who were injured; we remember those who survived physically but who carried psychological scars.

We remember also the many civilians who were killed or injured.

And we remember all the families who suffered the loss of loved ones, or whose lives were shattered in other ways beyond their control.

We offer our thanks for the sacrifices made; for the services rendered; for the courage and fortitude of many people; named or unnamed; for the countless small acts which helped to overcome the threat of invasion and to build the peaceful society in which we now are privileged to live.

We pray that such sacrifice and service will never again be necessary.

We pray that those who have been bereaved may be comforted in their sorrow, and enabled to live without hatred or bitterness, sustained by rich store of memories.

There is no glory in war, but there can be honour. On this special day of commemoration we remember, acknowledge and honour all those who served - in different ways in the battle for Australia.

Amen.

Geoffrey R Usher.

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PRAYER FOR PEACE

O God, you are the universal spirit of love and fellowship. As we remember the conflicts of the past - and indeed the present - give us the strength and determination to be among those who work to ensure that they will not be repeated in the future.

We pray for healing and reconciliation; for a sense of forgiveness and understanding; for renewed hope for international unity and peace in place of division and conflict.

Help us, O God, to envisage and establish a world in which all people can live in peace and harmony, with respect love and justice for all, because we are all children of the one human family.

We pray that such a vision may become a reality, not merely a dream.

Be with us, O God of love and peace, in all our endeavours.

Devoted to the love which heals all wounds, and to the courage which casts out fear; sustained by the hope which never dies; let us go from here today, mindful of our precious freedom and our great responsibilities.

May we re-dedicate ourselves

to seek truth boldly,

to show love constantly,

to serve all humanity faithfully,

Sorry that the love of God and the blessings of peace may be in our hearts and on our world now through all the days to come.

Amen

Geoffrey R Usher.