**Note: Please leave this on the ambo, thanks.**

**ANZAC DAY**

Good morning we welcome our parishioners and visitors to Mary Immaculate Quakers Hill/Schofields Parish.

We welcome to this special Mass to commemorate Anzac Day. Today marks the anniversary of the landing of allied troops at Gallipoli which is being celebrated in ANZAC services right across Australia and New Zealand and other places in the world where our troops are serving. The battle at Gallipoli was fought alongside our New Zealand friends. The soldiers became known collectively as the ANZACs.

As we celebrate Mass this morning, we feel a sense of gratitude and thankfulness to all those men and women in all nations who have given their lives for their country so that their citizens may be free. We pray also that those suffering persecution today may come to enjoy the peace and tranquillity that we accept as a natural part of our life.

The Celebrant for today’s Mass is  **Fr. Oliver**

Please join in singing the entrance antiphon.

**ANZAC DAY- YEAR A**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading (Wis 3:1-9)**

**A reading from the book of Wisdom**

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God,

no torment shall ever touch them.

In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die,

their going looked like a disaster,

their leaving us, like annihilation;

but they are in peace.

If they experienced punishment as men see it,

their hope was rich with immortality;

slight was their affliction, great will their blessings be.

God has put them to the test

and proved them worthy to be with him;

he has tested them like gold in a furnace,

and accepted them as a holocaust.

When the time comes for his visitation they will shine out;

as sparks run through the stubble, so will they.

They shall judge nations, rule over peoples,

and the Lord will be their king for ever.

They who trust in him will understand the truth,

those who are faithful will live with him in love;

for grace and mercy await those he has chosen

*The Word of the Lord*

**Responsorial Psalm (Ps 114:5-6; 115:10-11. 15-16, R. v.9)**

***(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord***

***in the land of the living.***

**1.** How gracious is the Lord, and just;

our God has compassion.

The Lord protects the simple hearts;

I was helpless so he saved me. **(R.)**

**2.** I trusted, even when I said:

‘I am sorely afflicted,’

and when I said in my alarm:

‘No man can be trusted’. **(R.)**

**3.** O precious in the eyes of the Lord

is the death of his faithful.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;

you have loosened my bonds. **(R.)**

**Second Reading (1 Cor 1:18-25)**

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians**

The language of the cross may be illogical to those who are not on the way to salvation, but those of us who are on the way see it as God's power to save. As scripture says: I shall destroy the wisdom of the wise and bring to nothing all the learning of the learned. Where are the philosophers now? Where are the scribes? Where are any of our thinkers today? Do you see now how God has shown up the foolishness of human wisdom? If it was God's wisdom that human wisdom should not know God, it was because God wanted to save those who have faith through the foolishness of the message that we preach.

And so, while the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ: to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness but to those who have been called whether they are Jews or Greeks a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy are those who have died in the Lord;

let them rest from their labours for their good deeds go with them.

Alleluia!

**Gospel (Jn 12:23-28)**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Now the hour has come

for the Son of Man to be glorified.

I tell you, most solemnly,

unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,

it remains only a single grain;

but if it dies,

it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it;

anyone who hates his life in this world

will keep it for the eternal life.

If a man serves me, he must follow me,

wherever I am my servant will be there too.

If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.

Now my soul is troubled.

What shall I say:

Father, save me from this hour?

But it is for this very reason that I have come to this hour.

Father, glorify your name!’

A voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**ANZAC DAY**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest**: — In this time of reflection, we call on our God who is full of love and

compassion. Confidently, in the hope of the resurrection.

**Reader:** — We pray for all airmen, sailors and soldiers who served and bravely lost their lives in battle during times of conflict, especially members of the Australian

and New Zealand Army Corps. May they rest in the peace of Christ and rise in

glory on the last day.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** We remember all families, parents and children who lost loved ones through war. May the light of God’s hope and strength comfort them.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** We pray for all engaged in diplomacy around the world. May they always work towards achieving peace through respectful negotiations and a dialogue of mutual understanding.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** — We pray for all political leaders. May the Holy Spirit help them to make wise decisions and to build relationships that lead to peace.

We pray.

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** — We pray for all engaged in commemorative services and ceremonies today. May their prayers and witness provide comfort and inspiration to all who grieve those who died in war.

We pray.

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Together we now pray our parish community prayer for ANZAC Day:

**All:** God of love and liberty, we bring our thanks this day for the peace and security we enjoy, which 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.

That the liberty, truth and justice which they sought to preserve may be seen and known in all the nations upon earth. This we pray in the name of the one who gave his life for the sake of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Priest:** God of mercy, send forth your Spirit of peace to our world as we

ask you to grant our prayers for those who have fallen in war. We ask this

prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.