



We proclaim a crucified Christ
1Cor1.23

Bishop Peter A Comensoli's Lenten Message 2015

Ash Wednesday
18 February 2015

2015 is a significant year for Australians; it's the centenary year of the forging of the ANZAC spirit along the deadly shores of Gallipoli.

There have been, already, moments of remembrance, and there will be any number of programmes, and events and exhibitions where we can recall, and reflect, and learn again of the evil of war, and the need for each one of us to commit to pathways of peace.

There will be, on many occasions, the hearing again of that sombre but noble prayer we recite for the fallen: the Ode of Remembrance.

In particular way I am always touched by the words towards the end of the Ode:

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them. We will remember them.

Our remembrance is not meant to be a sentimental recollection, it's meant to be a firm and dignified acknowledgement of those who have sacrificed their lives for the care of our country, and we extend that remembrance to those who were left behind in grief and loss, and to those who returned broken in body and often in spirit.

As we say at the end of the Ode: lest we forget.

Let us not forget the consequences of turning away from the God who created all people to live in peace with each other; let us not forget how easily we can lose our very humanity to current hatreds.

Lent this year, like every year, is our special season of grace to remember the one who died and rose for us, Jesus Christ, and to be renewed in his love for us.

Lent is our privileged time, lest we forget the gift of life itself given to us by God.



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Lent is our privileged time, lest we forget the gift of mercy and forgiveness, won for us by Christ on the cross.

Lent is our privileged time, lest we forget the gift of love and hope implanted deep in us by the Holy Spirit of the Lord.

So, can I encourage you this Lent to remember Jesus in your own life, in the life of your family, lest we forget our very selves.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning light, Christ is with us. From death to life, in his crucifixion and in his resurrection, may we remember him, Christ our Lord, Christ our hope, Christ our friend, Christ our life.

