

U ANZAC DAY 2018

O Lord our God, we recall that in 1943 Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt opened St Christopher's Chapel at Nerimbera, near Rockhampton, with a memorial plaque which reads – 'This chapel affirms that men going into combat have an overwhelming need to express their belief in a Divine Creator'. Heavenly Father, we affirm, just like many of those we remember today knew in their hearts, that You, as The Creator, became human in your Son Jesus Christ, and that he died that we might live. We remain forever grateful for the men and women of the Australian and New Zealand armed forces who died on the world's battlefields so that we might live freely in our countries.

We live in a world of wars, rumours of wars and much that is evil. Father we remember those many people who struggle to survive in war zones and those suffering as the result of wars - the injured and maimed, the psychologically impaired, the bereft wives and children, the families torn apart by conflict and so-called collateral damage. Give us the capacity to meet their needs, and we ask that You comfort them as only You can.

We ask you to give wisdom and protection over our newly appointed Military leaders and over all those serving under their command. Particularly we ask for Your protecting-hand over those on deployment. Give them courage as they stand to their posts, and may they be returned to their families, fit in body, mind and spirit. Should they be returned to us injured, give their families an abundance of love and compassion, give our medical professions the skills to restore them to full health, and may our society provide willingly for their every need.

O Lord our God, we pray for our great nations of Australia and New Zealand, their people and leaders, that we may strive to provide an environment that is safe, allowing us all to reach our full potential. When we are threatened by the avarice and greed of other nations may our leaders have the political skills to keep us out of conflict and be mediators for peace.

Heavenly Father, may we never forget you; may we remain true to your teachings, true to your values, and faithful to Your Word. By placing You and Your Word before all else, our lives have meaning. For, in everything, You are more than sufficient; You are our shield and our protection. We thank you that we are free to remember the fallen. We offer our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord and King. Amen.