

Perpetual Day of Remembrance

For Individuals and Households

Sunday September 15, 2019



Shine the Light of Christ

Church community Resources

Shine the Light of Christ Vigil

Ode to the Light of Christ

Background

In 2017 as part of Lina's Project, Bishop Bill established September 15 as a *Perpetual Day of Remembrance* throughout the diocese. Such a day holds before us our history of child sexual abuse and the reality of its continual unfolding in the lives of those directly and indirectly affected.

The intention is that this day be marked in a variety of ways including survivor led events which will grow and develop from year to year. It is hoped that these events provide an opportunity for all of us to stand with survivors.

It is equally important that the Church mark this day with prayer, ritual and worship. As a people of faith, commissioned by Jesus to live in remembrance of him, we know the importance of remembering. Our remembering not only functions to ensure that such abuse never happens again, more than that, it is penetrated with the light of Christ's Paschal Mystery and so becomes the source of our ongoing conversation and hope.

Our Church response is shaped by our liturgical wisdom and experience and by the light of the Paschal Mystery. Hopefully it too will grow and develop from year to year.

2019

This year, the Diocesan Liturgy Council established a Working Party to consider how we will mark September 15 with ritual, prayer and liturgy.

Our response emerges from our understanding of who we are as a Church community. St. Paul articulated it this way: when 'one member suffers in the body of Christ which is the Church, all the members suffer with that member' (1 Cor 12:26). Many members of Christ's Body are suffering. They are our brothers and sisters. Our place as baptised members of the Body of Christ is to stand with them and against all forms of abuse. Our responsibility is to pray with and for them, and for the change of heart that is necessary to stop abuse of any kind.

We have named our Church response '**Shine the Light of Christ**'. Together we hope to shine a light of solidarity, a light of prayer, a light of commitment to change, a light of hope.

We will mark the Perpetual Day of Remembrance on September 15 every year.

Thank you for your commitment to stand with our brothers and sisters who are suffering and to shine the light of Christ in our Church and neighbourhoods. Together we can be a sign of hope.

Louise Gannon rsj, Diocesan Liturgy Co-ordinator

With the Diocesan Liturgy Council Working Party – Perpetual Day of Remembrance

Jane Dunn, Fiona Duque, Andrew Slater, Catherine White.



Shine the Light of Christ 2019

Shine the Light of Christ Vigil

Individuals, housemates, families and communities.

In an attempt to draw a line of continuity with Child Protection Week, we recommend beginning our *Perpetual Day of Remembrance* with a 'vigil' that deepens the 'leave a light on' initiative from Child Protection Week.

All communities and individuals are invited to turn on/leave on their lights on **Saturday night September 14** as a vigil leading to September 15. This is one simple way we can all contribute to **Shine the Light of Christ** on this issue and in our world. There is a *Prayer for Turning on the Light of Christ*. below.

Prayer for turning on 'the light of Christ'

God with us,
you have made us in your image
and filled us with the breath of your divine life.
Through the life of Jesus
you show us the way to be merciful as you are merciful.

As darkness falls may these lights remind us
of our mission to shine the light of your love
on the darkness of our Church and world.

Create a clean heart in us O God.

Where people are disempowered
 May we shine the light of your paschal wisdom.

Where there is privilege and prestige
 May we shine the light of your humility

Where there is dishonesty and denial
 May we shine the light of your truth.

Where transparency doesn't exist and agendas are hidden
 May we shine the light of your integrity.

Where there is fear
 May we shine the light of your peace.

Where there is judgement
 May we shine the light of your compassion.

Where there is disrespect
 May we shine the light of your love.

Where people feel silenced
 May we shine the light of your word.

Where people feel excluded
 May we shine the light of your acceptance.

Where there is sin
 May we shine the light of your forgiveness.

Create a clean heart in us O God.

For turning off the lights

Day has dawned.
As we turn off our lights
we commit to shining the light of Christ in all we do
throughout our day.

Song

'If Not Now' by Carrie Newcomer is a beautiful song about a change of heart. We have been in touch with Carrie who is happy for the song to be associated with the 2019 Perpetual Day of Remembrance.

You can watch the song video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bY585-fzSs>

Ode

Fiona Duque from St. Bede's Catholic College Chisholm, has written a beautiful *Ode to the Light of Christ*. In keeping with the traditional way we proclaim an Ode, for example on ANZAC DAY, we recommend that it be proclaimed by one person.

Ode to the Light of Christ

Fiona Duque

Come, let us walk in the Light of the Lord
Let us not fear the past
When our hearts were heavy
Let us Shine the Light of Christ (Is. 2:5)

Come, let us bring light from the darkness
Let us make evil good
And find sweet in the bitter
Let us Shine the Light of Christ (Is. 5:20)

Come, let us weep together
When the light grew dark with the clouds.
From the darkness and distress
let us Shine the Light of Christ (Is. 5:30)

Come, let us walk with our brothers and sisters
Those who have walked in darkness
Let them see the great Light of God
And let us Shine the Light of Christ (Is. 9:2)

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