

# Perpetual Day of Remembrance

Resources for Individuals and Households

Thursday September 15, 2022

## Shine the Light of Christ

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Shine the Light of Christ 2022 prayer resources

## Acknowledgement of Country

*We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as Australia's First Peoples and the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we work to build a stronger, more equitable, kinder society that values children, young people, families and individuals.*

*We honour the wisdom of and pay respect to, Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the spiritual culture of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia.*

*The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is located on the traditional lands of the Awabakal, Biripi, Darkinjung, Kamilaroi, Wiradjuri, Wonnarua and Worimi people.*

*This diocese acknowledges the important Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander occupation and care of the land on which we live. We acknowledge our Traditional Custodians' continual spiritual and cultural connection to Country. We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as having been on this land for over 60,000 years.*

This is the acknowledgement made in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan launched on 18 August 2022.



## Ode to the Light of Christ

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

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

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

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

## Background

**2022** marks five years since Lina's Project and Bishop Bill Wright establishing 15 September 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 day is marked in a variety of ways including survivor led events and prayer, ritual and worship.

A lot has happened in these five years, and particularly in the last twelve months or more. Our context is different, and context informs our feelings and understandings, our priorities and choices, our prayer and liturgy. Our current context strengthens the imperative for us to pray for change.

The Church's prayer response focuses on *Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday*, [decreed](#) by Bishop Bill in 2020 and explained in his accompanying [letter](#). Resources for the day include:

- A Parish Resource providing extensive background information and a Mass template
- A resource for schools, agencies and groups
- Stations of the Cross – We Lament and We Hope
- And this resource for individuals and households.

All resources are available on the [diocesan website](#).

The *Perpetual Day of Remembrance* continues to push us to think deeply about what it means to be and live Catholic. Our unity is marked by enormous diversity. This diversity requires great sensitivity in discerning our communal faith response to this day. All the resources seek to respect this diversity by giving communities and individuals a range of options from Sunday Mass to something as simple and powerful as turning on a light.

As a faith community it is important for all of us to recognise that this day responds to a deep need in some of our brothers and sisters. As members of the community of Jesus' disciples – irrespective of our affiliation with the worshipping community – we stand together, with survivors, against all forms of abuse and for cultural change that will promote fullness of life for all. We need every glimmer of light if together we hope to **Shine the light of Christ** into this dark space: a light of solidarity, a light of prayer, a light of courage and commitment to change, a light of healing and hope.

The Healing & Support Team – Zimmerman Service is available should this remembering cause distress for any person. Please ring 49230636.

For a more detailed background information please see the Parish communities resource in the Prayer Response section on the [diocesan website](#).

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 Manager Worship and Prayer

With the Diocesan Liturgy Council and the Standing Committee: Perpetual Day of Remembrance  
Allen Brierley, Monique Crick, Fiona Duque, Uta France, Louise Gannon, Daniel Lee, Petrina Massey, Cathy White, Ed Wright, Andrew Slater,

### Shine the Light of Christ Vigil

#### Individuals, families, housemates and communities.

To draw a line of continuity with *National Child Protection Week*, we invite you to begin our *Perpetual Day of Remembrance* with a Shine the Light of Christ Vigil.

You are invited to turn/leave on a light on Saturday night September 10, the last day of *National Child Protection Week* and the Vigil Mass for *Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday*, and to continue this practice through to and including Wednesday night September 14.

This is a simple and public way to show we stand with survivors, their families and friends, and that we are committed to **Shine the Light of Christ** on this issue and in our world. There is a *Prayer for Turning on the Light of Christ* and one for turning off the light 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 live in the light of your love .

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 justice.  
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 is lacking and agendas are hidden  
may we shine the light of your integrity.  
Where there is fear  
may we shine the light of your courage.  
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

Carrie Newcomer and her manager have given us permission again to use her song 'If Not Now' in association with the 2022 Perpetual Day of Remembrance.

'If Not Now' is a beautiful song about a change of heart. You can watch the song video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bY585-fzSs>

It is also available for listening and purchase on most music platforms.

Listening to this song or watching the video is a very reflective and prayerful experience for individuals and households.

Some of Carrie's other songs are also a rich source for reflection and prayer.

Interestingly, in referring to his recent call for a referendum on altering the Constitution to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders a voice, Prime Minister Albanese used the phrase 'if not now'. Once again, our context is informing the imperatives enshrined in our Perpetual Day of Remembrance.

### 'Ode to the Light of Christ' by Fiona Duque

Fiona Duque from St Bede's Catholic College Chisholm has written a beautiful *Ode to the Light of Christ*. **See p. 3**. This can be used for personal or household prayer.

### Our Father

Within our rich tradition of Christian prayer, the *Our Father* is a centre piece. It is often recommended as the starting place for people wanting to learn to pray 'The Prayer of the Church' particularly its hinge pieces of Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer.

Some who find the *Our Father* deeply meaningful might commit to praying it at a specific time each day during Child Protection Week, up to and including the Perpetual Day of Remembrance on 15 September.

Use the version and language with which you are most familiar and comfortable. The Inclusive Bible uses the phrase 'Abba God'.

## Sunday Mass for September 11 (including the Saturday night Vigil)

In 2022, *Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday* falls on Sunday September 11.

As a community of faith, we can do nothing better than bring the diocesan *Perpetual Day of Remembrance* to our celebration of eucharist; to join our story of abuse and suffering to Christ's offering, that the light of the Paschal Mystery will convert our hearts and lead us forward in faith and hope.

If you would like to join in a parish Mass on this weekend you are most welcome.

The text for this Mass is available in the parish resource on the diocesan [website](#).

## Mass for September 15 – Our Lady of Sorrows (Memorial)

September 15 falls on Thursday this year. It is the Twenty-Fourth Week of Ordinary Time and the memorial for Our Lady of Sorrows.

You are welcome to join the parish community for what would be a quieter Mass on the day. Parish Mass times can be found on the diocesan [website](#) or the Diocesan [App](#).

## Praying with Scripture

Some may like to spend time praying with scripture. There are endless ways of doing this that focus on quietly reading the text and waiting in silence for the word and invitation you hear God offering you. This leads to your own prayer, your word responding to God.

You will find the readings for *Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday* in the Parish communities resource of the Prayer Response section on the diocesan [website](#)

- The first reading is on p. 25
- The psalm on p. 26
- The second reading on p. 27
- The Gospel on p. 28

The Prayer of the Faithful (Universal Prayer) starts on p. 28 if you would like to pray that prayer.

A simple process for Lectio Divina and for Mystagogical reflection is found on p. 13 of the parish resource.

## Acknowledgements

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Shine the Light of Christ