

Perpetual Day of Remembrance

Working Party

Background

The Atonement: Lina's Project was a victim-led community event of acknowledgement and repentance, held on Friday September 15 2017 at Newcastle City Hall.

At that time Bishop Bill made a number of commitments to ensure that 'the story is not forgotten and that our determination that it not be repeated never fades'. One of these commitments was to proclaim September 15 as a Perpetual Day of Remembrance, noting that it would be marked in a variety of ways in conversation with survivors and the wider community.

A small start was made in 2018. Resource were sent to parishes and the primary focus of the remembrance was at the celebration of Sunday Mass with a particular focus on the 9.30 Mass at the Cathedral where Bishop Bill presided.

A commitment was made to work more intentionally on growing this Perpetual Day of Remembrance from 2019. A committee from Zimmerman Services/Healing Support is working with survivors on the survivor driven events to mark this day. The Diocesan Liturgy Council's role is to prepare the way the church will mark this day with prayer and liturgy. This is a Church response, informed by our liturgical wisdom and sensitive to survivors. To ensure the latter, Healing Support will be an important reference group as will awareness of the nature of the survivor planned events to mark the day.

The focus is not only on 2019 but how our prayerful and liturgical marking of this day will grow across the years, shaping this church to be Christ to our brothers and sisters who are in pain and seek healing.

Mandate

The Perpetual Day of Remembrance Working Party is established by the DLC to:

- become familiar with the resources provided by the DLC;
- prepare the Church's prayer/liturgical response to the 2019 Perpetual Day of Remembrance;
- begin to imagine the future development of the Church's liturgical response beyond 2019;
- review the 2019 liturgy with the DLC.

Membership

Members are appointed by the DLC. The Working Party is free to identify others who could assist them to achieve their task. It is important that the best wisdom is sitting at the table.

There are two options for including additional people. Some may function as 'reference people' who come to occasional meetings or provide resources and wisdom outside meetings. Additional members may be formally appointed to the Working Party through the Diocesan Liturgy Co-ordinator who will pursue this on behalf of the DLC.

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Responsibility

The Perpetual Day of Remembrance Working Party is the responsibility of the DLC and is accountable to it through the convenor.

Organisation

The Diocesan Liturgy Co-ordinator will convene and chair the Working Party and maintain contact with the planning committee for the day and Healing Support.

The Working Party determines its meeting schedule and venue to achieve its tasks. It will also determine who is to prepare agendas and minutes for each meeting. These documents are sent to the Liturgy Office to be tabled at DLC meetings and for filing.

The Working Party is supported by the Liturgy Office including the Administrative Support Officer and Liturgy Co-coordinator. Support can include: communication/email contact, booking rooms if the Working Party decides to meet at the Diocesan Offices, printing, promotions planning, accessing support from Communications and other diocesan teams etc.

The Diocesan Liturgy Budget will cover expenses, though authorisation is required from the Diocesan Liturgy Coordinator prior to purchase or engagement of service.

Term

The Perpetual Day of Remembrance Working Party operates from its first gathering until the review of the 2019 Liturgy. At this point the Diocesan Liturgy Co-ordinator will take the advice of the Working Party on what structure is needed to sustain the ongoing development of this celebration.

Contact

For further information please contact:

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