

DEFENCE SUNDAY 2015
Notes For Preachers

“Defence Sunday 2015” will be held on Sunday 8 November to coincide with the observance of Remembrance Day. “Defence Sunday” is an annual event that draws attention to the spiritual needs and wellbeing of those who serve in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) as sailors, soldiers or airmen; fosters prayerful support within the Churches for those who serve the nation through ADF service; encourages clergy to consider service as full or part-time ADF chaplains; and builds bridges of cooperation between the Anglican ministry to the ADF and diocese and parishes across the country.

Anglicans comprise the second largest single denominational group in the ADF with about one-third of those identifying with a Christian group identifying as Anglican. This amounts to more than 15,000 men and women of whom 90 per cent are aged between 18 and 35 years. The Anglican Church also provides the largest number of chaplains with 45 clergy presently engaged in full-time ministry and another 61 in part-time Reserve service. At present, Anglican ADF Chaplains minister in 16 of the 23 Australian dioceses in addition to recent service abroad in East Timor, Cambodia, Rwanda, Somalia, Bougainville, the Solomon Islands and the Middle East.

The bishops have been asked to support a retiring offertory for the work of the Defence Force Board. Support may be provided in two ways either by Direct Deposit to:

The AMOS Foundation
BSB 032 079
Account 162035

or by mail to The Office of the Anglican Bishop to the Defence Force

1 Wilton Road
Duntroon Garrison
PO Box 7915
CANBERRA, BC, ACT 2610

The funds will be applied to the work of the Board, the training of ADF ordinands and the maintenance of the Bishop’s office.

There are no prescribed readings for “Defence Sunday” but you may care to use those listed for “Anzac Day” in APBA as an alternative to those set down in the lectionary.

In this year of the centenary of ANZAC Defence Sunday Remembrance Day (11 November) when an armistice brought to an end the Great War of 1914-18 takes on a greater and more poignant significance. Ten million service people and Seven Million civilians died in four horrific years of warfare. The human cost to the Australian nation and people was enormous. 417 000 were raised for service in the Army. Of that number, 330 000 served overseas. 58 132 men were killed and 156 228 were incapacitated as a result of combat. The peak personnel strength of the Permanent Naval Forces was 5668 men of which 825 belonged to the Royal Navy. About 350 Australians served in the Royal Navy. The Reserve numbered

5772 personnel. The Royal Australian Naval Brigade consisted of between 1646 and 2670 men together with 3834 Sea Cadets. The number of deaths constituted between 1.32 and 1.24% of the population. In addition Remembrance Day is also a time for remembering all those who have died on operational service and an opportunity to be reminded of the priceless value of peace.

The following points are made as suggestions for developing a sermon that will both honour the fallen and encourage awareness of the continuing role of the ADF and particularly of Anglican chaplaincy and our vital role in the modern defence force.

ADF Chaplaincy is:

- A mission dedicated to making Christ known to young men and women who increasingly have had little or no meaningful experience of Christians and Christianity.
- A ministry committed to meeting the denominational needs of Anglican service personnel.
- An opportunity to demonstrate Christ's care for all persons by providing pastoral care to servicemen and women both at home and on operations.
- An opportunity to articulate in practical terms the Anglican understanding of the Christian notion of "Just War" - Romans 13:1-7, 1 Pet 2:13-14.
- A reflection of the Christian call to be a light to the world.
- An avenue for the declaration of Christian values and virtues.
- A prophetic movement upholding Christ's call to love others in a violent world.
- A demonstration of the Anglican Church's capacity to work nationally.
- A vehicle for extending the Church's mission abroad.
- Part of an ecumenical enterprise embodying Christ's call to unity.
- A mission in need of prayerful support.
- A ministry that deserves the cooperation and goodwill of the Church.
- An initiative that will be enhanced and extended by financial contributions.

I would encourage you to draw upon personal experiences of chaplaincy, and to highlight the ministry of those Anglican chaplains who have recently served overseas as well as those presently deployed if any as at 7 November.



I. K. Lambert
Bishop to the Defence Force
17 October 2015