

VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC



VP DAY COMMEMORATION
15 August 2023

Master of Ceremonies

Mr John Gatfield OAM

Our Prayers today will be delivered by

Fr Graeme Malone SSS, Roman Catholic Chaplain, Concord Hospital

ARRIVAL OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY

CATAFALQUE PARTY MOUNTS

IMP Battalion, Holsworthy

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

Concord West Rhodes Preschool

PROLOGUE

Cr Angelo Tsirekas

Mayor City of Canada Bay

This year is the 78th anniversary of The Declaration of Peace in 1945 and the end of hostilities in the Pacific. A peace that was secured and has endured through the sacrifice of many loved and cherished souls.

We gather in these peaceful surroundings to commemorate Australian infantry, airmen and naval personnel who served during World War II. Many gave their lives in the pursuit of peace. We gather to offer our thanksgiving and prayers for all those who gave of themselves for Australia and for each of us here today. We remember the New Guinea Campaign which was exemplified on The Kokoda Track. It was a defining moment in Australian's history. Australian service personnel endured a heroic struggle in horrendous conditions, defending this country against an enemy who had, until then, been invincible.

Particularly this VP Day we remember two naval vessels—the Centaur and the Montevideo Maru. This year is the 80th Anniversary of the sinking of the Australian hospital ship Centaur. And this year the resting place of Montevideo Maru was finally discovered off the Philippines coast. And so today we particularly remember those who gave their lives in service to our country upon the sea.

We gather this VP Day both to remember all those who gave of themselves, and to commit ourselves to the values they upheld for each other and for us—the values of courage, self-sacrifice, understanding and compassion. May we not only remember them this day, but also remember them each day in the way we uphold these values in the peace they have secured for us. Lest We Forget.

OFFICIAL WELCOME

Ms Jennifer Collins, AM
Chair, Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway

A PRAYER FOR SERVING MEMBERS OF THE FORCES

Fr Graeme Malone SSS
Roman Catholic Chaplain, Concord Hospital

We beseech you, Almighty God, to watch over all those serving in the Armed Forces of this Country, and those who still suffer disabilities through sickness or injuries sustained in War or Peacekeeping Missions or hazardous training. Strengthen and encourage all who have been saddened by the loss of loved ones - especially children deprived of a parent's care and protection.

And we pray that the same comradeship and service shown in the struggles in which our Country has been involved, may now be offered in the greater task of making a true and lasting peace. This we ask through Jesus Christ, your Son, Our Lord! **Amen.**

BIBLE READING Psalm 107:23–32 (The Naval Psalm)

Some went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters.

They saw the works of the Lord, his wonderful deeds in the deep.

For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves.

They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths; in their peril their courage melted away.

They reeled and staggered like drunkards; they were at their wits' end.

Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress.

He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed.

They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind.

VP DAY ADDRESS

Lieutenant Colonel Orry Kirkham, CSC
Headquarters Forces Command

VISUAL REFLECTION : The Watery Grave

Accompanying Harpist: Elizabeth Lorencev

SONG : How Can I Keep from Singing

Sung by: Strathfield North Public School Choir

Directed by: Adam Kasalo Performing Arts Coordinator

*My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.*

*I hear the real though far off song
that hails a new creation.*

*Through all the tumult and the
strife I hear the music ringing.*

*It finds an echo in my soul. How can
I keep from singing?*

*While though the tempest loudly
roars, I hear the truth: it liveth.*

*And though the darkness
'round me close, songs in the
night it giveth.*

*No storm can shake my in-most
calm while to that rock I'm clinging.*

*Since love is lord of heav'n and
earth, how can I keep from singing?*

*My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.*

*I hear the real though far off song
that hails a new creation.*

*Through all the tumult and the
strife I hear the music ringing.*

*It finds an echo in my soul. How can
I keep from singing?*

How can I keep from singing?

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Directed by John Gatfield, OAM

THE NAVAL ODE

Ray James, OAM

NSW RSL President

KTMW Board Member

LAST POST - 1 MINUTE SILENCE – ROUSE

Bugler Corrective Services NSW Band

THE PRAYER FOR COMMEMORATION FOR THE FALLEN

Fr Graeme Malone SSS

Roman Catholic Chaplain, Concord Hospital

O Lord, lover of peoples, who through the mouth of your prophet of old declared that all souls are yours.

We thank you for the brave and faithful dead, who willingly laid down their lives on the battlefields of war, or succumbed to the perils of the deep, or of the air.

We bless you for the dauntless courage of those defenders of our country who have fallen in the cause of truth and righteousness.

In your hand, O Father, we leave their departed spirits. Grant us to follow their good example in faithfulness and endurance, even unto death, that we may, with them, be found worthy of the crown of everlasting life. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER - ALL

Our Father, who art in Heaven,

hallowed be Thy name;

Thy Kingdom Come,

Thy Will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory,

for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HYMN Eternal Father! Strong to Save

Words: William Whiting (1860); Music: MELITA (Dykes)

- 1 Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm does bind the restless wave,
Who bids the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.
- 2 O Saviour, whose almighty word
The winds and waves submissive heard,
Who walked upon the foaming deep,
And calm amid the rage did sleep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.
- 3 O Holy Spirit, who did brood
Upon the waters dark and rude,
And bid their angry tumult cease,
And give for wild confusion peace;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.
- 4 O Trinity of love and pow'r,
Your children shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire, and foe,
Protect them where-so-e'er they go;
Thus, evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

THANK YOU NOTE

Carole-Anne Priest
Deputy Chair, KTMW

BENEDICTION

Fr Graeme Malone SSS

Roman Catholic Chaplain, Concord Hospital

Now unto him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you without blemish before the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God, our Saviour through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory and majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and for ever. **Amen.**

ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are one and free
We've golden soil and wealth for toil,
Our home is girt by sea
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty, rich and rare
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing
Advance Australia Fair.

CATAFALQUE PARTY DISMOUNT

CONCLUSION

Please join us for refreshments.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Department Of Veterans' Affairs
- NSW State Government
- City of Canada Bay
- Corrective Services NSW Band
- Communities for Communities
- Kokoda Track Memorial volunteers and guides.
- Chaplains - Pastoral Care Department, CRGH
- Piper Graham Jewell, Burwood RSL Pipes and Drums
- Catafalque Party from IMP Battalion, Holsworthy

