

## **ANZAC DAY**

ANZAC Day commemorates the landing of Australian and New Zealand troops on the shores of Gallipoli at ANZAC Cove on 25 April 1915. Although the Gallipoli campaign was unsuccessful, every year, on the anniversary of the landing, Australians honour the courage of those who fought and commemorate the sacrifice of those who died during the campaign.

Australia has been involved in UN and other multinational peacekeeping operations since 1947. These operations have taken Australians to countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and the Pacific, where they have been involved in monitoring ceasefires, holding elections, clearing landmines, providing humanitarian aid, and repatriating refugees. Australia's largest peacekeeping deployment was to East Timor in September 1999, when 9,000 troops were deployed to restore peace after a vote for independence from Indonesia had led to violence. On ANZAC day, we remember those who fought and lost their lives in all wars.

### ***St. Francis Messenger of Peace***

Turning his back on holy wars and the authority exercised by the Church, Francis began to travel the land, giving everyone his greeting "Peace and all good." He invited men and women to live as brothers and sisters. Francis spoke about the duty of extinguishing hatred and concluding a new peace treaty, he chased away the demons of discord, and when conflict broke out in his own town of Assisi between the bishop and the podestà, he did not rest until he had reconciled the two men. And this force was contagious. Soon Francis was no longer alone. Many joined him, wanting to follow his example.

In his Last Testament St Francis wrote, "*God revealed a form of greeting to me, telling me that we should say, 'God give you peace.'*" We pray for peace and justice in our world today.

O God, listen to the cry of your suffering people who know no peace and cringe in terror, and who are caught up in the midst of armed struggle. Relieve them of their fears and fill their hearts with joy and thanksgiving. Grant us peace that will **BREAK** our silence in the midst of violence then prophetic voices shall resonate. Amen.

---

Sarah Menassa

Promoter of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation

Franciscan Provincial Office 47 Victoria Street, WAVERLEY NSW 2024

Telephone: (02) 9369 9309 Fax: (02) 9369 9322