

## **PRAYERS FOR DEFENCE SUNDAY – 8 December 2009**

### **Pray for:**

The Bishop to the Defence Force: Bishop Len and Sandy Eacott

The Defence Force Board of the General Synod

The ministry of the 44 full-time and 56 part-time Anglican Defence Force chaplains and their families especially those chaplains currently deployed overseas with Australian forces.

Those preparing for ministry as Anglican Defence Force chaplains

### **A Prayer for Military Chaplains:**

Lord God of Hosts, we pray for your priests whom you have called to the ministry of uniformed Chaplaincy, and for those who proclaim your love and compassion on battlefields and Defence establishments where Australian military personnel serve. Lord, strengthen their faith as they seek to witness to you in the secular world. Protect them from all dangers and comfort them in the long separations from their families and the familiar things of church that they must endure. Lord who blessed the peacemakers, bless especially those chaplains serving overseas, helping to bring peace to nations new and old which are struggling to find their identity and place in the world. We ask in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen

### **A prayer for the Defence Force:**

Eternal God, the only source of peace, we pray for all who serve in the Defence Force of this land.  
Give them courage and comfort in danger, patience in waiting, and discipline in the just use of force.  
Help us to seek for all people the freedom to serve you and each other in compassion and peace.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **A Chaplain's Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, we pray for each other in this Defence Force where we are called to serve, that more and more we may feel our belonging together, our need for each other and the strength and joy that comes from working and striving together in a common purpose. Lord, help us to be Barnabas. Help us to encourage each other's strengths and talents. Help us to be there for each other; committed to each other's growth. Stir up within us the spirit of generous service to enable our love for you and all your people to flood our bases, our church and our community. We ask this in the

name of our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.

**A Prayer for Use in Time of Conflict:**

O Lord God of infinite mercy, we ask you to look in compassion on our nation now involved in conflict. Pardon our offences, our pride and our arrogance, our self-sufficiency and our forgetfulness of you. Give wisdom to our elected and appointed leaders, skill and discernment to our officers, courage and endurance to our sailors, soldiers and airmen and women, especially those serving in and around the Middle East, and all who guard our shores. Look in mercy on those immediately exposed to danger, conflict, sickness, and death, and all prisoners of war. Be with the dying; give to them true repentance and complete trust in you; and in the day of judgement, good Lord, deliver them. Finally, we ask you to banish from our hearts the spirit that makes for war, to remove all causes and occasions of conflict; to direct us and our enemies to moderation; and to restore peace among the nations; through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.