Prayers at the Animal Memorial

The children gather at the Memorial for the laying of the poppy wreaths.

Introduction:
God created the animals – birds of the air, fish of the sea, and the many beloved creatures that live upon the earth – and God declared them all to be good. The glory of a horse running, the beauty of birds in flight, the love and devotion of dogs to their owners, the tolerance of beasts of burden all display the wonder of sacred life and the debt and responsibility that we owe to them.

We pray for those animals that have been our very close companions in times of crisis and in times of war – wars not of their making and not of their nature.

Act of Repentance

Almighty God and Creator of all,
You have chosen humankind for a position of special responsibility in your world; too often we have failed to respond in awe at Your wonders; We have misinterpreted our role of dominion and abused our power. We have caused the animal kingdom needless suffering. Forgive us as we seek anew the vision which You set before us, And as we strive to respond to Your call; we make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord, give us humility to thank you for the creation of animals, who can show affection and devotion which sometimes puts us to shame. Enlarge our respect for these your creatures, of whom we are the guardians. And give us a sense of responsibility towards all your creation, for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE AT THE WAR MEMORIAL

10.45am
11th November

Bidding Prayer

Priest:

We are here to worship Almighty God, whose purposes are good; whose power sustains the world he has made; who loves us, though we have failed in his service; who gave Jesus Christ for the life of the world, and who by his Holy Spirit leads us in his way. As we give thanks for his great works, we remember those who have lived and died in his service, and in the service of others; and we commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith, for reconciliation between the nations, that all people may live in freedom, justice and peace.

Prayer of Remembrance

Almighty God, in you alone we find safety and peace.
We commend to your gracious keeping all the men and women
who now serve in the Navy, the Army and the Air Force,
who face danger and put their lives at risk
so that others might live in safety.
Defend them day by day by your heavenly power;
and help them to know that they can never pass
beyond the reach of your care.
Keep alive in them and in us your vision of that peace
which alone we must seek and serve;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Litany of Peace

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give us peace: for the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God;

For those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss; for all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return;

For civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity;

For peace-makers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free; for all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace.

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm. As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Act of Remembrance

Priest:

Let us remember before God, and commend to his sure keeping those who have died for their country in war, those whom we knew, whose memory we treasure, and all who have lived and died in the service of mankind.

LAYING OF WREATHS AND THE EXHORTATION

Other prayers may be added, as required.

Reader: They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them.

All: **We will remember them.**

THE LAST POST **THE SILENCE** **THE REVEILLE**

The Blessing

God Grant to the living, grace;
to the departed, rest;
to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth, and all mankind,
peace and concord;
and to us and all his servants, life everlasting.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you for evermore. **Amen.**

The Kohima Epitaph

Reader: When you go home, tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow, we gave our today.