



*At Christ Church Cathedral we seek to share God's unconditional love of all people regardless of age, sex, marital or family status, sexual orientation, ability or wealth.*

**Pentecost 23**  
**12 November 2017**  
**Australian Defence Force Sunday**



**Y**esterday we observed Remembrance Day: ninety-nine years ago at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month of 1918 the guns were finally silenced at the end of the Great War. There was a determination that this should really be the war to end all war. But the peace was lost—hatred and vengeance won over reason and peace. So just over twenty years later the world was again at war: our illustration above is an Australian postage stamp from 1940 just after the start of the Second World War. Sadly, war continues and we continue to have the necessity of maintaining armies and navies and air forces.

Accordingly on the Sunday closest to Remembrance Day we are asked to observe Australian Defence Force (ADF) Sunday. We pray for the young men and women who serve in the ADF and also remember those who went before them. It is also important today to pray for those who lead the ADF and to pray for the Chaplains who minister to all those serving.

The issue of the use of armed force is a vexed one. Personally I incline towards Just War Theory though recognise that this is far from perfect. Whatever our thoughts on these matters, we continue to pray for all those who serve.

*The Very Revd Dr Keith Joseph, Dean  
formerly Major Keith Joseph, RAAMC*