

NEW GUINEA MARTYRS DAY

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Resources for Commemoration Services

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Questions and Answers¹

Who were the Martyrs of Papua New Guinea who are commemorated on September 2nd

The Anglican Church in Australia has set this day aside to remember the twelve Anglicans who died in Papua New Guinea in 1942-3, during the Japanese invasion and occupation of the country we now know as Papua New Guinea.

They were:

John Barge, priest	Lilla Lashmar, teacher
Margery Brenchley, nurse	Henry Matthews, priest
John Duffill, builder	Bernard Moore ² , priest
Leslie Gariardi, evangelist and teacher	Mavis Parkinson, teacher
May Hayman, nurse	Vivian Redlich, priest
Henry Holland, priest	Lucian Tapiedi, evangelist and teacher

Were any of these people PNG Nationals?

Yes, both Lucian Tapiedi and Leslie Gariardi.

What did they have in common?

Each of them died because, as an individual, they chose to continue to serve the people entrusted to them by God rather than travel to safety when they had the opportunity. It is this act of personal self-denial in the face of imminent personal danger to their life that led inevitably to the death of each of them.

Why is it observed on September 2nd?

This has been chosen as one day to commemorate 12 people who died on various dates in 1942 and 1943. In a number of cases the actual dates of their deaths are unclear. The first synod of the Diocese of New Guinea after the war ended requested that such a date be set aside. At first they suggested September 1st since by that day in 1942 it was believed that all the martyrs from the Northern Province and Port Moresby were already dead. This was later amended to September 2nd and has

¹ Extracts taken from a resource prepared by Margaret Bride

² Bernard died of illness during the Japanese occupation.

been observed since 1947³. In 1996 the date was agreed to be used as a commemorative date for all 333 Christian martyrs of the PNG in World War II.⁴

Are these the only Christian Martyrs of PNG in 1940s?

Far from it. Members of all the major churches were killed in the hostilities. It is difficult to know exact numbers. At different times the lists have varied but Theo Aerts⁵ in 1994 gives the following numbers:

Anglicans 12
Roman Catholic 197
Evangelical Church of Manus 5
Lutheran 16
United Church 77
Salvation Army 22
Seventh Day Adventists 4

A total of 333

Does the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea Observe this day?

Yes, indeed. It is one of the big days of celebration in many parishes. There is traditional dancing in the Eucharist and the kundu drums are played. At the Martyr's Memorial School it is always a very important occasion.

Why does the Australian Church keep this day?

Three good reasons:

1. Papua New Guinea is Australia's nearest neighbour, closer than New Zealand or Indonesia.
2. From 1896 to 1973 the Territory of Papua was an Australian dependant territory. From 1919 to 1973 the Protectorate of New Guinea was an Australian responsibility first under the Charter of the League of Nations and then under the United Nations. Today Australian governments always recognise that there is a special responsibility that we have for the nation of Papua New Guinea. This government responsibility is mirrored in the responsibility that the Anglican Church of Australia has for the Anglican Church of PNG which is taken up by the Anglican Board of Mission – Australia.
3. Many of the martyrs were missionaries of the Anglican Church in Australia on behalf of our Church.

What can we learn today from the lives and deaths of these people in 1942 and 1943?

One answer to this is that they were ordinary Christian people, doing the tasks they believed God had called them to do. It is easy for us to find among them some particular person with whom we can identify and see that we are never too old, too young, too ordinary, too unskilled, to perform a part in the mission of God to bring his love and justice to this broken world.

³ *The Good Shepherd: Bishop Strong and the New Guinea Martyrs*, Bishop Phillip Strong, Melbourne, St Peter's Bookroom, 1983

⁴ "The Martyrs of Papua New Guinea" Paul Richardson, Magazine insert in Church Scene, Vol 5 No39, August 9th 1996.

⁵ Aerts, Theo, *The Martyrs of Papua New Guinea*, Port Moresby, University of Papua New Guinea Press, 1994. Pages 36-7

General Prayers for Martyrs' Day

A Prayer for the Martyrs from PNG

Let Us Pray

Father, we thank you for your martyrs of Papua New Guinea; they obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ to take up the cross and follow him, and so they glorified you by their deaths. May their witness and their prayers make strong your Church in this land: and may we, your servants today, follow their example of faithfulness and courage, work for your kingdom, and be joined with them forever: through the same Jesus Christ Our Lord who lives and rules with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.⁶

Collects:

All powerful and ever-living God, turn our weakness into strength: As you gave the martyrs of Papua New Guinea the courage to suffer death for Christ, give us the courage to live in faithful witness to you. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OR

Living God, You made your Church to grow Through the zeal, courage and unflinching witness Of your servants martyred in New Guinea: Give to us and all your people Such steadfast faith in your good purposes That we may serve you faithfully Wherever you have stationed us: Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.⁷

A Prayer for us and our Brothers and Sisters in PNG

Almighty God, there is no greater love than to give our lives for your friends. Grant us and the people of Papua New Guinea the courage to make our own sacrifice. And may we, in the company of your Martyrs, gaze with joy upon the face of Christ. Amen

⁶ Prayers for Martyrs – Diocese of Papua New Guinea Prayer Book 1975.

⁷ Collects from *A Prayer Book For Australia* 1995 63 1ff. Copyright The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation.

A Litany for the Martyrs

The following Litany of Prayers were written by Bishop Denys Ririka, former Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Aipo Rongo, PNG, and have been generously given to ABM for the use of the Australian Church. It is taken from a service held for Martyr's Day at All Soul's Lae in 2004. It has been translated into English and also includes a prayer for the Melanesian Brothers murdered in the Solomon Islands.

1. Miss Mavis Parkinson

Lord Jesus Christ, we see in your servant, Mavis Parkinson, the loving concern for the children's education; help us in our time to give quality loving care to our children and all other students under our care, so that they may grow in wisdom and truth.

V. Lord in your mercy.

R. Hear our prayer.

2. Sister May Hayman

God of love and faithfulness, bless us all with your wisdom, as we remember your servant, May Hayman today, that we may, like her, think, care and serve a little more for others and a little less for ourselves.

V. Lord in your mercy.

R. Hear our prayer.

3. Reverend Henry Holland

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your servant, Henry Holland, who saw in Andrew Uware the qualities that were necessary for the mission of the gospel and so shared the task. Mercifully pour upon us your insight that we may discern your gifts in others, and value them, work together for your glory and the extension of your Kingdom.

V. Lord in your mercy.

R. Hear our prayer.

4. Sister Margery Brenchley

God of hope and love, your servant Margery Brenchley gave loving hope of healing and health to the sick. Bless the doctors and nurses in their work; guide and strengthen us to be your instruments of hope to the hopeless, the helpless, the suffering and the poor.

V. Lord in your mercy.

R. Hear our prayer.

5. Miss Lilla Lashmar

God, our Father, rekindle and deepen our love for you so that we may with our whole being want to be a good soldier for Jesus Christ, as did your servant Lilla Lashmar.

V. Lord in your mercy.

R. Hear our prayer.

6. Reverend Vivian Redlich

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the life of Vivian Redlich, who in obedience to your call, left the comforts and security of his homeland and with others ministered your word and sacraments. Stir up the hearts of all ordained ministers to serve you well in all circumstances to hold high your light of truth and love.

V. Lord in your mercy.

R. Hear our prayer.

7. John Duffill

God, our Father, you call people in different ministries to build your Church. We thank you for your servant, John Duffill, whose keen desire to help you well as a carpenter, carrying his share of the cross and laying down his life with others, is an example for us. Lord, guide and strengthen us in all that you call us to do – to be faithful and devoted to you and to each other.

V. Lord in your mercy.

R. Hear our prayer.

8. Lucian Tapiedi

Lord God Almighty, we thank you for your servant, Lucian Tapiedi, who volunteered to go back and collect items left behind – a decision in the face of danger. Pour upon your Church such bravery, that we too may be ready to stand up and defend the rights of the helpless among us.

V. Lord in your mercy.

R. Hear our prayer.

9. Reverend Henry Mathews

God, our Father, Creator and Preserver of all, we thank you for your servant Henry Mathews whom you called as priest to minister to your Word and sacraments in Port Moresby. Bless the work of clergy in the urban centres that they may be faithful in their calling.

V. Lord in your mercy.

R. Hear our prayer.

10. Leslie Gariadi

Lord God, we thank you for Leslie Gariadi, for example of faithfulness, support and companionship to his priest, together in life and together in death. Holy and gracious God, help us to be true to each other and to you in faith and love.

V. Lord in your mercy.

R. Hear our prayer.

11. Reverend John Barge

We thank you, Lord Almighty, for your servant John Barge who met you on a track near a village garden “with a shot and a sword” at Moewe, Kandrian. Clothe us with your peace and enrich us with your grace, that we, like John Barge, may face challenges and dangers with courage and love.

V. Lord in your mercy.

R. Hear our prayer.

12. Reverend Bernard Moore

Lord, God of all creations, we thank you for your servant Bernard Moore, priest, teacher, sailor, supplier and transporter of goods and services to the outlying islands on the Southwest coast of New Britain. Mercifully give us grace to be the means to present your peace and love to those you have called us to care for and those we meet each day.

V. Lord in your mercy.

R. Hear our prayer.

MELANESIAN BROTHERHOOD

We also remember with thanksgiving, the life and witness of the late Melanesian Brothers who gave their lives in your service on the beaches of the Solomon Islands: ROBIN LINDSAY, ALFRED HILLY, TONY SHRIHI, PATERSON GATU, FRANCIS TOFI, NATHANIEL SADO and INI PARATABATU.

O Lord, you equipped these men with different gifts and talents to serve you with courage and conviction. We pray that your Holy Spirit may enable us each day to know the truth from falsehood and like them, stand firm to proclaim what is right.

Where there is hatred let us show love

Where there is injustice, forgiveness

Where there is division, unity

Where there is sorrow, hope

Where there is darkness, light

Where there is sadness, joy

Where there is fear, courage

V. Lord in your mercy.

R. Hear our prayer.

2025 Prayer for Martyrs Day

For all that is good
we give you thanks, O Lord.

We give you thanks, Lord of heaven and earth,
for all the practical, grassroots work
that is achieved between ABM AID and the Church in Papua New Guinea.

For all that is good...

We give you thanks for the better quality of life
that the students in the adult literacy classes
can achieve for themselves with the help of their teachers.
May they cross the barriers that once stood in the way.

For all that is good...

We give you thanks for those who undertake the Agents of Change course,
take their certificate and turn it into concrete action
to better their communities.
May they enhance their society,
transcending and upgrading as they go step by step.

For all that is good...

And we give you thanks for all those who support the Martyrs Gift
and the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea
whether through their interest, their prayers, or their donations.
May your blessing be on them
now and forever.

For all that is good...

We make our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
surrounded by the saints, confessors and martyrs of every age,
in glory for all eternity.

Amen.

Suggested Hymns for the Feast of the New Guinea Martyrs

The following list is of suggested hymns with tunes. There seem to be two possible approaches in choosing hymns, (a) the typical saints'/martyrs' day hymns that extol the martyrs' examples (for example, How bright these glorious spirits shine); or (b) hymns with sentiments with which the martyrs would concur (eg, O Jesus I have promised to serve thee to the end). A service may well have both types of hymn sung at it.

- All my hope on God is founded (Michael)
- Be thou my guardian and my guide (Abridge)
- Be thou my vision (Slane)
- Blessed city heavenly Salem (Westminster Abbey, Urbs beata – plainsong)
- Brother, sister, let me serve you (Servant Song)
- Disposer supreme, and Judge of the earth (Old 104th, Hanover)
- Father, hear the prayer we offer (Marching, Sussex)
- Fight the good fight (Peter ad Vincula, Duke Street)
- For all the saints who from their labours rest (Engleberg, For all the saints)
- God is my strong salvation (Christus der ist mein Leben)
- Goodness is stronger than evil (Goodness is stronger – John L Bell)
- Hark! the sound of holy voices (omit v. 2) (Moultrie, Deerhurst, Vision)
- Harken to the anthems glorious of the martyrs robed in white (Laus Deo)
- How bright these glorious spirits shine (Ballerma, Beatitudo, Sennen Cove)
- How bright these glorious spirits shine (University)
- Jesu, priceless treasure (Jesu meine Freude)
- Let our choir new anthems raise (Weimar, St. Kevin, Schwing dich, St John Damascene)
- Let saints on earth in concert sing (Dundee)
- Let us now our voices raise (Gaudeamus pariter)
- Lo! What a cloud of witnesses (St Fulbert)
- Lo, round the throne, a glorious band (Sandys Psalm 8, Solothurn)
- Lord, it belongs not to my care (Song 67)
- Make me a channel of your peace (Channel of peace)
- O Jesus grow thou in me (Caithness)
- O Jesus, I have promised (Wolvercote)
- O my Saviour, lifted from the earth for me (Glenfinlas)
- Our Lord the path of suffering trod (Salus mortalium)
- Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days (Old 104th, Paderborn)
- Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee (Savannah)
- Take up your cross, the Saviour said, (Breslau)
- The triumphs of the saints (Bath)
- Who are these like stars appearing? (Zeuch mich)

The following hymns for the Church are reprinted with permission from the hymnal of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

Martyrs, you were Christ's below

(to the tunes Dix, Ratisbon, Christ whose glory, and Lucerna Laudoniae)

Martyrs, you were Christ's below,
Strong in faith you faced the foe.
'Tis no palm of fading leaves
That your conquering hand receives;
Ours are yours, serene and pure,
Light that ever shall endure

Passing soon and little worth
Are the things that tempt on earth.
Martyrs, God is your reward:

Face to face you see the Lord!
Knowing now his perfect will,
Strong in heart, you serve him still.

We, your brothers, toil below;
Now in part your joys we know.
Father, you the crown will give,
Saviour by your death we live,
Spirit, you our hearts now raise,
Three in One, your name we praise.

The Martyrs now living with Christ
(to the tune St Magnus)

The martyrs now living with Christ
 In suffering here were tried
Their anguish overcome by love
 When on his cross they died
Across the passing years they come,
 In constancy unmoved.
Their loving hearts make no complaint,
 In silence they are proved.
No one has ever measured love,
 Or weighed it in their hand,
But God, who knows the inmost heart,
 Gives them the promised land.
Praise Father, Son, and Spirit Blest,
 Who guides us through the night
In ways that reach beyond the stars,
 To everlasting light.