

Remembrance Day – Student reflections

Jaxon Bingham and Pippa van der Riet

Good morning distinguished guests, students, members current and previously serving in the armed forces.

My name is Pippa van der Riet, and my name is Jaxon Bingham. We are from St Matthew's School.

For all those affected by war in current and past conflicts: for those serving in areas of conflict, for all who must fight when there is no other choice: for their families who wait in fear and anticipation for their safe return, for those who don't return....In peace we pray.

For the world that stands on the brink of war: for organisations that work for peace where peace seems most unattainable; for wisdom and courage for all political leaders ...In peace we pray.

For all people of faith: for peace between people of different religions; for peace among those who share the same faith; for reconciliation and healing that will one day lead to unity ... In peace we pray.

(Pippa) What does Remembrance Day mean to me?

A day when I think of all the brave men and women who fought for the freedom we enjoy today. A minute I give to honour the brave and our promise to remember them.

(Jaxon) What does Remembrance Day mean to me?

Remembrance Day to me is remembering all the fallen soldiers who have died for us. On the 11th day of the 11th month at 11 O'clock, we stop to remember them.

For the people of our nation: for peace in our parishes; for peace in our neighbourhoods and streets; for peace in our homes; for peace within each human heart ... In peace we pray.

We would like to finish by reading a short poem entitled: we shall keep the faith.

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honor of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.

Lest, we forget