

# THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND DIOCESE

OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OUTSIDE OF RUSSIA

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## DECREE

Dear Fathers,

In recent correspondence to all the bishops, His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion, reminds us that this autumn (spring in Australia) marks the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War (1914-1918). We have always honoured the memory of our heroic Orthodox soldiers, among which were also ever-memorable members of our clergy and their flock. Memorials for them have been erected in Belgrade, Berlin, and Mourmelon (France).

In connection with this, we have a blessing to serve a pannykhida for them on 1/14 September, not just this year, but annually, on the day of the August (Avgustkaya) Icon of the Mother of God, whose feast day was established commemorating the appearance of the Mother of God to Russian soldiers in September of 1914. The pannykhida may also be served on the Saturday closest to that date, before the Sunday vigil service, in order that there may be preserved the grateful memory of the heroism of these soldiers, who gave their lives for the Faith, the Tsar, and the Fatherland.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+Bp. George".

**+Bishop George of Canberra**

**Auxiliary Bishop of Australia and New Zealand Diocese**

**Of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia**