

## Sunday Message from Fr William for the Thirty-Second Sunday of the Year 2023

Dear People of St Mary's

Here's putting aside for this Sunday the series of reflections on life in heaven, what Jesus refers to as 'eternal life' and the 'other world'. Instead I want to take the opportunity to share with you some reflections on Remembrance Sunday, and on the month of November.

Remembrance Sunday is held on the second Sunday in November, the nearest Sunday to 11<sup>th</sup> November, Armistice Day, the anniversary of the end of hostilities in the First World War in 1918. The name 'Remembrance Sunday', and the designation of the second Sunday in November were both proposed by the Archbishop of Westminster Bernard Griffin in 1945 in the aftermath of the Second World War. Both proposals were readily accepted by the House of Commons and approved by King George VI.

Remembrance Sunday commemorates the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian service personnel in the two world wars and in later conflicts. It honours especially those killed in these wars. Remembrance Sundays also serves to remind us of the incalculable human cost of war, something we should never forget.

Remembrance Sunday brings the whole nation together – Jews, Christians, Muslims, whatever religion we are, and all our fellow citizens who do not identify with any particular religion. On Remembrance Sunday we are in solidarity with each other. Together we share the yearning of all humanity for peace.

As Christians our Christian faith adds an additional dimension to Remembrance Sunday, particularly in our prayer. We pray for all those who have died, that they may share in the Resurrection of Christ and be taken up with him into heaven, into the eternal life that is our shared destiny and our ultimate home. We ask this not just for those killed in the two world wars, but in all the subsequent human conflicts, military and civilian, and indeed for those on every side in every conflict. We are all created in the image and likeness of God. We all share a common humanity. We are all created for the ultimate peace of heaven, and to share this peace together in eternity.

November is more generally the month when we remember and pray for those who have died. It begins with All Saints – the celebration of our final destiny in the Communion of Saints. It moves onto the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed. It includes Remembrance Sunday. And in St Mary's we have our own Commemoration Mass for our parishioners who have died in the last twelve months. See this Sunday's bulletin.

God bless you, your families and especially those who have died.

Next Sunday – back to the 'other world' ...



Sunday 12 November 2023