

SUNDAY PLUS

Remember

They gave their all

By Austin Owen-Owen

It's easy to imagine the little old lady putting a coin in the collection box before entering the Temple to pray. What made her different was that Jesus saw her and knew that everything she had went into that box and nobody else saw or appreciated her gift. She wasn't looking for recognition – but she deserved it. Would she go to bed hungry that evening?

Today is Remembrance Day. Over the millennia, billions of people have lived on our planet, but each had only one life. Too often, that life was

given up in wars which its owner didn't seek and didn't start. Lists of names on war memorials and cemetery headstones won't always record great deeds which earned medals and fame. Yet each name, each grave, was someone who was loved and whose absence left – and still leaves – an aching gap which will never be filled in quite the same way. Too often, war is made by the “men at the top” and fought by those “at the bottom”. War destroys families and separates loved ones. War memorials, wherever they may be, say the same things but in different languages, tangible proof that those who lived and those who died were people with friends, families and personal stories. Each resembled the poor widow of today's Gospel: they gave their all.

Today, Remembrance Day, we think with pride of those who gave their lives so that others might live and as we pray that they might be enjoying eternal life, we also pray for peace. May all peoples work together to create peace and understanding in our world.

Austin Owen-Owen was wounded twice in battle but continued fighting on the front line.



Photo: Sr Janet Fearn

Without memory, we uproot ourselves from the soil that nourishes us and allow ourselves to be carried away like leaves in the wind. If we do remember, however, we bind ourselves afresh to the strongest of ties; we feel part of a living history, the living experience of a people.

Pope Francis

Nothing left over

By Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.

For Jesus, the quality of generosity is not about what you give but what you have left after you give. The widow makes a supreme sacrifice, offering as gift everything that she has. There is nothing left over.

Some people do even more – they give their own lives. Armistice Day, on 11 November, recalls the official end of World War I. The hostilities formally ended “at the eleventh hour of the

eleventh day of the eleventh month” of 1918, with the German signing of the Armistice.

Today, we celebrate Remembrance Day, remembering all those men and women who were killed during the two World Wars and other conflicts.

We remember because we don't think their ultimate sacrifice should be forgotten. Who we are is what we owe to them. But we do more than remember: we hold their sacrifice holy today, together with the sacrifice of Jesus, who gave his life for all.

Fr Denis McBride's many books, CDs and DVDs are available from Redemptionist Publications, www.rpbooks.co.uk.

Feast of the week

Sunday 10 November

Remembrance Day

Wherever you are, my love will keep you safe,
My heart will build a bridge of light across both time and space.

Wherever you are, our hearts still beat as one,
I hold you in my dreams each night until your task is done...

Wherever I am, I will love you day by day,
I will keep you safe, cling on to faith along the dark, dark way,
Wherever I am, I will hold on through the night,
I will pray each day a safe return, will look now through the light...

May your courage never cease.

Courage never cease.
Paul Mealor, sung by Military Wives Choir

Lord God, grant eternal rest to all those who have died as a result of war. Comfort their families and friends. Heal those who carry the wounds of war in their bodies and in their hearts. Help us to build a world of peace. ✚ Amen.

Today:
1 Kings 17:10-16
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

Monday:
Titus 1:1-9
Luke 17:1-6

Tuesday:
Titus 2:1-8, 11-14
Luke 17:7-10

Wednesday:
Titus 3:1-7
Luke 17:11-19

Thursday:
Philemon 7-20
Luke 17:20-25

Friday:
2 John 4-9
Luke 17:26-37

Saturday:
3 John 5-8
Luke 18:1-8

Next Sunday:
Daniel 12:1-3
Hebrews 10:11-14, 18
Mark 13:24-32