

Readings for Remembrance Sunday

12th November 2023

First Reading: Job 19:21-27a

Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends,
for the hand of God has touched me!
Why do you, like God, pursue me,
never satisfied with my flesh?
“O that my words were written down!
O that they were inscribed in a book!
O that with an iron pen and with lead
they were engraved on a rock forever!
For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;
and after my skin has been thus destroyed,
then in my flesh I shall see God,
whom I shall see on my side,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

“Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: St John 6:37-40

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.”

A Reflection for Remembrance Sunday

Many of us will be attending or participating in Acts of Remembrance on November 11th or on this Remembrance Sunday. I am sure that the current conflict between Israel and Palestine will be on many of our minds, as well as the ongoing war in Ukraine and so many others around the world that barely touch our consciousness. Humanity's inability to live at peace with one another, and to negotiate difference without recourse to arms, is too evident in too many places as we seem to be unable to learn the lessons of history.

I recently came across the following poem which some of you may know. It was written as a school assignment by the then 14-year-old Joshua Dyer from Leominster in 2019. Let us pray that the 'path of peace' he refers to, for which so many have given their lives, may one day become a reality for those suffering so much at present.

One Thousand Men are Walking

One thousand men are walking,
walking side by side,
singing songs from home,
the spirit as their guide.
They walk towards the light milord,
they walk towards the sun;
they smoke and laugh and smile together,
no foes to outrun.
These men live on forever
in the hearts of those they saved,
a nation truly grateful
for the path of peace they paved.
They march as friends and comrades,
but they do not march for war,
step closer to salvation
a tranquil steady corps.
The meadows lit with golden beams
a beacon for the brave,
the emerald grass untrampled
a reward for what they gave.
They dream of those they left behind
and know they dream of them,
forever in those poppy fields
there walks one thousand men.