

Sunday 9 November 2025
Remembrance Sunday

Liverpool Parish Church

OT: Job 19: 23-27a
NT: Thes 2:1-5, 13-17
Gp: Luke 20: 27-38

Today, as we gather on Remembrance Sunday, we pause to reflect, remember, and honour all those who, in times of conflict, gave their lives for peace and freedom. The poppies pinned to our coats all serve as reminders that remembrance is both a communal act and a deeply personal journey. Across the United Kingdom and around the world, communities come together, united in solemnity, gratitude, humility, and hope—a tapestry of memory stretching across generations.

Remembrance Sunday is more than a ceremony or shared silence; it is an enduring commitment to carry the stories and sacrifices of those who served into our present and future. We honour the memory of brave service men and women—those who left behind family, friends, and the comfort of home, venturing into the unknown with nothing but courage and resolve. Theirs was a sacrifice not sought but accepted; a burden shouldered for the sake of values greater than themselves: liberty, justice, compassion.

The significance of remembrance extends beyond histories recounted in books or names etched on memorials. Each life lost is a thread in the fabric of our common story. Their laughter, love, and longing echo among us still. We remember with reverence those who fell on distant fields and in familiar towns, in the trenches of the First World War, the beaches and airfields of the Second, and in countless subsequent conflicts, known and unnamed. For every name, a story; for every story, a legacy that shapes us still.

In remembering, we are called to learn. The devastation of war reminds us of what is truly at stake: the dignity of the human spirit, the bonds of community, the delicate gift of peace. The stories of the past implore us to choose understanding over enmity, dialogue over division, reconciliation over vengeance.

We recall the lament of the prophet Isaiah, who saw a vision of the peoples of the world beating their swords into ploughshares, their spears into pruning hooks: “Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4). The dream of peace is ancient and enduring, and yet its fulfilment ever requires our vigilance. The lessons of history are not simply to be remembered but to be lived, as we strive to build a world where justice and mercy walk hand in hand.

Though Remembrance Sunday is tinged with sorrow, it calls us, too, to hope. The poppy—emerging in scarlet beauty from the scarred fields of Flanders—has become a symbol of resilience, a reminder that even out of devastation life can return, and hope can bloom anew. In our faith, we are encouraged by Jesus’ words: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). Each act of compassion, each gesture of forgiveness, each commitment to understanding, is a seed of peace planted in our midst.

Let us remember that hope is not passive optimism, but an active, courageous choice. To hope is to believe that the sacrifices of the past are not in vain, that reconciliation is

possible, and that we are agents of change in our own time. In our prayers and actions, may we hold fast to this hope, even when the world seems uncertain.

Today we remember not only those who have fallen, but also those who serve still—men and women in uniform, their families, and all who support them. Their daily acts of courage and faithfulness, whether in the field of conflict or the quiet service of peacekeeping, deserve our deepest gratitude. We pray for them, for their safety, and for blessings upon their homes. We pray, too, for all who bear the scars of war—in body, mind, or spirit—asking that they find comfort, healing, and community.

Let us lift up our leaders as well, that they may govern with wisdom, humility, and a heart attuned to peace. Let us remember civilians whose lives are upended by violence, the refugees and displaced, and all who long for a safe place to call home. The call to peace is one that extends beyond borders, faiths, and generations—it is a call to our shared humanity.

As we lay wreaths and stand in silence, our remembrance must not be confined to ritual alone. We are called to live lives worthy of the sacrifices made for us—to carry forward the torch of peace, to build bridges of understanding, and to stand up for justice and compassion in the everyday moments of our lives. Whether in the way we welcome the stranger, support the broken-hearted, or seek justice for the marginalised, we honour the legacy of those who gave their all.

May we embody the spirit of Remembrance Sunday in our choices and our relationships, letting the lessons of the past guide us toward a brighter, more peaceful future.

As the echoes of the Last Post fade and a hush falls over this sacred day, may our remembrance be not just an act of memory, but a pledge—renewed with each year—to seek peace and pursue it. May we draw inspiration from those who came before, and strength from one another, trusting that even when sorrow and loss seem overwhelming, love and hope will prevail. Let us continue their legacy, building a world where all may live in harmony.

We will remember them.

Mthr Jennifer Brady