

Remembrance Reflection 1:

What day is it today? Remembrance Sunday

It's not always easy to remember things, but there are times when it's vital to do so. So today we remember all those who have died in war. We remember those who died only this week in Afghanistan as well as those who died in earlier wars, and especially the 2 world wars. As we think back to the 2nd world war that began 70 years ago this year, what are we remembering?

Is it the deaths of millions of people killed by the cruelties of war? No, it's not their deaths, it's their lives we're remembering. The lives that were caught up in the havoc of evil. One day everything was beautiful, and good and the next day there all things fell into was chaos, and violence, and suffering. But we remember because men and women fought for the safety and the goodness of the world. We remember because when faced with the reality of evil men and women rose up to the call of the good; they were willign to do their bit and give their all to the great crusade for freedom and life. And it was done. The victory was won. Their sacrifice, the gift of their lives was not wasted. We remember them for what they achieved and we remember so that we might be like them: a people willing to rise up to the demands of our day to make a stand in courage and in hope against the evil that would destroy our families and our peace.

Can you remember Jesus said to the criminal on the cross whob appealed to Him, saying "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." It's not always easy to remember – let's have a go: "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

These verses remind us of the importance of remembering, and also give us assurance: when we trust in Christ Jesus, whatever happens to us in this life, we can be assured that even though we die we shall live: we will be with Him in Paradise.

Reading: 2Corinthians 4:4-11

For Your tomorrow we gave our today

There is a war happening in the world today. It's not in Afghanistan It cant be seen on our television sets. And you hardly ever read about it in the papers and it is never talked about in schools. But it is a war that involves everyone here. You cant escape it. You cant run away from it, for the fighting line runs down the middle of your hearts. On the one side is the great power of the world whose name is selfishness who is allied with me, me, and me, whose weapons are indifference to others, and whose

resources are money and our personal desire. He is the most powerful enemy you will ever face, for he has a stronghold on your life and a tight grip on your heart and he plans never to let you go. His word is a lie and though he promises the good life he has a home for you in the prison of darkness and a destiny for you in the emptiness of death, and though he speaks of a life of ease, you will never give you peace in his arms. And he works by blinding you to the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, so you will think it all nonsense

But on the other side of your heart there is the Lord God almighty, and his weapon is love, and his power is life, who has stood in the front line in your place, letting Himself be taken so that you might go free, for the most incredible thing about this war is that the winning of it has already been decided. The outcome is known, the victory decided for the battle belongs to God. It was won for you at Calvary, on Good Friday, when Christ Jesus died for you and it was proclaimed at Easter when He rose from the dead for you. Whoever trusts in Him & follows Him, whoever fights on His side in this war will live even though they die for His life is revealed in their mortal bodies.

But which side is winning this battle in your heart, for it is a war that is fought in every human life. Are you making a stand for the King and His Kingdom? This will not be easy. It will take courage; it will cost you dear, for when you make a stand for Jesus your friends will get at you & even laugh at you, which maybe the hardest weapon of all to resist. Will you who seek, serve and follow Christ, give your today for His tomorrow? Will you stand up for Jesus when the world calls you to love money, and give up worship and be a stay at home, lie in bed, help yourself person? Will you trusting to the grace of God make a stand in Christ against evil. If you do, it will be difficult. It is not easy to follow Christ Jesus when people laugh at you and ridicule you. But remember then what Paul says: we are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. For we always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal bodies. Your enemy s working death in you, but Christ's life is at work in you and He has the victory. Whoever seeks, serves and follows Christ in the battle for the world, whoever gives their today for Christ's tomorrow will receive a crown of glory in the eternal Kingdom of God and His eternal blessing in love and joy and peace. Your life will not have been wasted and your sacrifice will be celebrated in the Kingdom forever, to the glory of the One God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.