

Homily 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 8th November 2020

This Sunday is the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time. We move now into the last few Sundays of the Church's year. And the readings move us to reflect on the last things, the end of time, our earthly lives, and what is to come.

The gospel (*Matthew 25:1-13*) is the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. The wise ones have everything ready for the arrival of the bridegroom, the foolish ones do not.

Our culture is freaked out by death, won't talk about it, won't look at it; it is an affront to our insistence on self-determination. This is not wise.

As Christians we bring wisdom to the table, and the courage to confront and look at death. And we do so with hope. As St Paul writes in the second reading (*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*) "We shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another."

November is our traditional time for remembering our departed loved ones. And this Sunday is also Remembrance Sunday, for all those who have died on active service, and those still alive who bear the mental and physical scars of battle.

A reminder that in the Catholic tradition, prayers for the dead are more than just a remembrance: our prayers assist our departed loved ones on their final journey, just as their prayers continue to assist us. I will be offering private Mass for the general intention 'Holy Souls' during this month.