

We Remember

*O God of truth and justice, we hold before you and pray for those whose memories we cherish,
and those whose names we will never know.*

For Catholics, the fast-approaching month of November is traditionally associated in the Church with remembrance of the dead. Bringing to mind deceased family and friends can be very painful, especially if the bereavement is relatively recent. In liturgical celebrations, however, remembrance is not just about looking back to the past but also looking ahead to the future. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we look forward with trust and hope to their new life in heaven. The Feast of All Saints on November 1st serves to remind us that we are a Church of saints who rejoice in the Glory of God.

Armistice Day or Remembrance Day, as it has come to be known, is another important occasion to remember the dead. Originated following the end of the First World War, the Armistice agreement was signed between Germany and the Allied Forces in Paris on Monday, November the 11th. Every year, at the 11th hour of the 11th day, Canadians remember the members of the armed forces who lost their lives in the line of duty. We acknowledge their courage and sacrifice and highlight our responsibility to work for the peace they fought hard to achieve. Every year, we pause in remembrance for the men and women who served and continue to serve our country.

We also remember the ongoing conflicts between Russia and Ukraine, and all nations in the world suffering from their own challenges and struggles. War touches the lives of people of all ages, all races, all social classes. Fathers, sons, and daughters are killed in action, some are wounded, and thousands are forced to live with the enduring physical and mental scars. As we prepare to commemorate the unflinching heroism and sacrifices made by Canada's military veterans on November the 11th, we acknowledge the service and freedom that all men and women fight hard to preserve.

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