

LIVING FAITH

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NOVEMBER 7, 2021



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY (Mark 12:38-44)

As he taught, he said,

‘Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets!

They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers.

They will receive the greater condemnation.’

He sat down opposite the treasury,

and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury.

Many rich people put in large sums.

A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny.

Then he called his disciples and said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury.

For all of them have contributed out of their abundance;

but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.’

TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

The widow in today’s Gospel is an example of how Jesus holds up the marginalized and the victimized as mirrors to both God’s action and what is in God’s heart. In Jesus day, widows were among the most vulnerable in society. They had little legal status or protections because those were derived from their husband. Once the husband was dead, their wives lost status, protection and often economic means. An eldest son may step in, to provide support to his mother, but even then, it was still a male figure of status giving support and means to a woman who had no status because of gender. Jesus’ society was deeply hierarchical and therefore dysfunctional by today’s standards on many levels, not the least of which was the status of woman and care for the vulnerable!

We see an example of this in the Gospel where Jesus is critical of the scribes who, he says “...

devour widow’s houses ...” The Scribes are religious leaders, scholars and members of society’s powerful elite, who cared little for the plight of widows, and cared far more about their own status, reputation, personal wealth and comforts. Thus, Jesus condemns them.

The widowed woman in the Gospel, however, is the opposite of the Scribes. She has no power, no status; she is vulnerable. Nevertheless, she gives to the treasury all she has. She probably feels duty bound to do so, as a member of society who does her part, small though it maybe, but large in spirit and generosity!

Jesus does not look to the scribes who are bloated on their own excess of wealth, power and prestige, for inspiration; he looks to this widow as a sign of what the Kingdom of God looks like: a place where the vulnerable matter and have something to teach the rest of us; and, a place where generosity is plentiful.

TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- Where have you seen this parable brought to life in our world today?

The Widow's Mite

But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Mark 12:42

Based on Mark 12:38-44



G F O E A E L L L A M S B L D
E K N R E V D T X A N O S Y T
W G L R L E Q R C I R Y N G E
G A O K H R O G O G C G N E K
J M O P T Y P C Y W T I E O Y
W I D O W T E I Z A R P V W U
K D J F H H N U L E E L I A H
D H I T P I N I F R A A S M C
Q C U S M N Y F K E S C I O W
A R O J C G O I E J U E D U E
T N J P E I P O V E R T Y N A
Z A R X P S P C D N Y S F T L
N M I S P E U L T E M P L E T
K U C A E F R S E C P O O R H
D Y H X I Y M W A S H L C E S

PENNY	PLACE	TRUTH	DISCIPLES	TEMPLE
JESUS	TREASURY	MONEY	POVERTY	AMOUNT
MORE	WIDOW	COINS	RICH	OFFERING
LARGE	WEALTH	EVERYTHING	COPPER	POOR

THE CHURCH TEACHES ETERNAL LIFE PROMISED FOR ALL



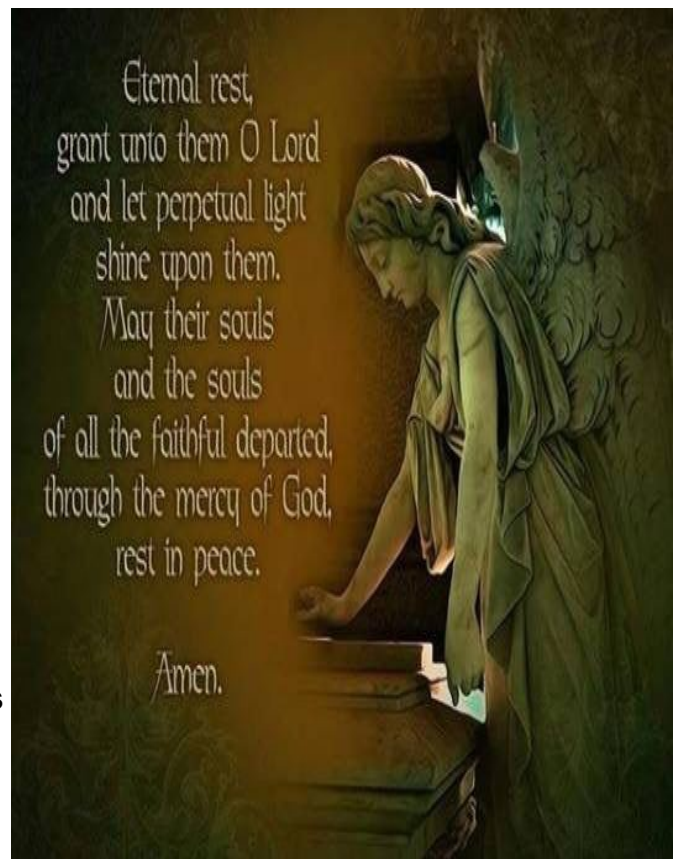
The Christian who unites his own death to that of Jesus views it as a step towards him and an entrance into everlasting life. When the Church for the last time speaks Christ's words of pardon and absolution over the dying Christian, seals him for the last time with a strengthening anointing, and gives him Christ in viaticum as nourishment for the journey, she speaks with gentle assurance:

**Go forth, Christian soul, from this world
in the name of God the almighty Father,
who created you,
in the name of Jesus Christ,
the Son of the living God,
who suffered for you,
in the name of the Holy Spirit,
who was poured out upon you.
Go forth, faithful Christian!**

**May you live in peace this day,
may your home be with God in Zion,
with Mary, the virgin Mother of God,
with Joseph, and all the angels and saints.**

**May you return to [your Creator]
who formed you from the dust of the earth.
May holy Mary, the angels, and all the
saints
come to meet you as you go forth from this
life.
May you see your Redeemer face to face.**

Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1020, citing the Prayer of Commendation from the Order of Christian Funerals



By his death and Resurrection, Jesus Christ has "opened" heaven to us. The life of the blessed consists in the full and perfect possession of the fruits of the redemption accomplished by Christ. He makes partners in his heavenly glorification those who have believed in him and remained faithful to his will. Heaven is the blessed community of all who are perfectly incorporated into Christ. *CCC 1026*

This mystery of blessed communion with God and all who are in Christ is beyond all understanding and description. Scripture speaks of it in images: life, light, peace, wedding feast, wine of the kingdom, the Father's house, the heavenly Jerusalem, paradise: "no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him." *CCC 1027*

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2021



REMEMBRANCE DAY
Lest We Forget

Remembrance Day is a memorial day observed throughout the Commonwealth since the end of the First World War. On this day, we remember the members of our armed forces who have died in the line of duty. Following a tradition inaugurated by King George V in 1919, Remembrance Day is observed on 11 November in most countries to recall the end of hostilities of World War I on that date in 1918. Hostilities formally ended "at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month", in accordance with the armistice signed by representatives of Germany and the Entente between 5:12 and 5:20 that morning. ("At the 11th hour" refers to the *passing* of the 11th hour, or 11:00 am.) The First World War officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on 28 June 1919. The first official Armistice Day was subsequently held on the grounds of Buckingham Palace the following morning.



Every year, on November 11th, we stop to remember with grateful hearts those who gave their lives that we might have the freedom we enjoy today. On this day, we pray for an end to all wars, that people may live in peace.



In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

- Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae

The red remembrance poppy has become a familiar emblem of Remembrance Day due to the poem "In Flanders Fields" written by Canadian physician Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae. Poppies were first worn in 1921.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, the first commemorative flower was the forget-me-not, which is traditionally worn on July 1, the day on which we remember the fateful battle of Beaumont-Hamel in 1916.



NOVEMBER
THE MONTH OF ALL SOULS