

# SUNDAY PLUS

Lest we forget

## Remember

by Des Kelly

In different ways all the three readings of today's Mass deal with the theme of eternal life. Thus, when we pray for deceased loved ones it is an expression of faith in the resurrection.

On this Remembrance weekend, I always remember a story my father told us, his children, when we were young. He was an RAF bomber pilot in the last war and my mother was in the WAFS (Women's Auxillary Ferrying Squadron). He would say that if someone with a gun came into our home and said he was going to shoot one person and let the other members of the family go free, my father would tell the gunman to shoot him first and let his family go free.

As we know, many people gave their lives so that we may be free. Of course,

we know Jesus laid down his life so that all who believe in him will have eternal life.

Before becoming a teacher, I was a professional footballer at Norwich F.C. and I remember telling my father I was nervous when I was returning to play after a serious injury. He replied that I did not know what it was to be nervous: he remembered on one of his missions he had just dropped his bombs over Germany and was returning to England with four other planes when they were all shot down except him and he was sure that he and his crew were next.

We tend to think that fear and courage are mutually exclusive. But this is not so. Courage is not never being afraid: it is being afraid and overcoming it – or carrying on in spite of fear.

Des Kelly, a father and grandfather, is also a retired headteacher, who, today, works in parish enrichment and support.

## Living memory

by Claire Wright

One of my goals for 2018 was to read through all of the books only found in the Catholic Bible: Tobit, Judith, Wisdom, Ecclesiasticus, Baruch and Maccabees 1 and 2. These have now become some of my favourite books of the Bible: amazing stories of incredible people, none more astounding than the tale of the seven Maccabee brothers.

I find their faith, their strength to hold out for God even until death, to be inspirational. It is crystal clear where their strength really comes from: not in themselves, but in God. They're rooted so firmly in God that they don't ever doubt their belief that though they may die, they will rise again with him, that their mangled bodies will be reassembled more perfectly than ever, and their holy souls gathered

in an eternal divine embrace.

When I think of those I have lost, I like to bring these brothers to mind, and ask God for strength, so that I may believe without a doubt that those whom I no longer see here, I will one day hold again.

Claire Wright is a Brighton-based freelance writer who runs a faith blog and a healthy family food website, all while taking care of two lively toddlers.

Loving Lord, you planted some incredibly beautiful treasures in my heart but it's not always easy to see them. Sometimes I also miss seeing the treasures in other people's hearts. Open my eyes and, together, let us celebrate the amazing gift of your love  Amen.

## Lest we forget

by Catherine Pepinster

Remembrance Sunday is a special moment when we recall with thankfulness the sacrifice of millions in wartime. Most will have served at a young age; they will often have been afraid. In Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians he writes of the comfort that God offers, especially to those who are fearful. It is not a temporary respite, but a comfort that endures for ever, despite illness, disappointment, war and all the travails of this world. For those facing death and for those bereaved, the words of Christ in Luke's Gospel offer an insight into what that comfort is. God invites us to be with him and rise again. Death is not an end and life after death will not be the same as life on earth. Those who enjoy the resurrection are like angels, Christ says. And God

is not of the dead but of the living: "for to him all of them are alive".

Catherine Pepinster is a former editor of *The Tablet* and the author of *The Keys and the Kingdom – the British and the papacy from John Paul II to Francis*, published by T&T Clark.

"If today is a day of hope, today is also a day of tears. Tears as those felt and wept by women when the mail arrived: 'Madame, you have the honour to have had a husband who was a hero for the Homeland; that your sons are heroes for the Homeland'. They are tears that today humanity must not forget."

Pope Francis

Today: 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14  
2 Thessalonians 2:16 – 3:5  
Luke 20:27-38

Monday: Wisdom 1:1-7  
Luke 17:1-6

Tuesday: Wisdom 2:23 – 3:9  
Luke 17:7-10

Wednesday: Wisdom 6:1-11  
Luke 17:11-19

Thursday: Wisdom 7:22 – 8:1  
Luke 17:20-25

Friday: Wisdom 13:1-9  
Luke 17:26-37

Saturday: Wisdom 18:14-16;  
19:6-9  
Luke 18:1-8

Saturday (S): St Margaret (Feast)  
Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31  
or 1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13  
Matthew 25:31-46

Next Sunday: Malachi 3:19-20  
2 Thessalonians 3:7-12  
Luke 21:5-19