

Welcome  
Remembrance  
Crossword  
Events  
Key Dates



"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them." Robert Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)



ARMY

## Army Roman Catholic Newsletter



Current topics >>>



## Welcome

From

The Revd Fr Paschal J Hanrahan CF  
Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain (Army)



All around the world, throughout many nations, November 11<sup>th</sup>, Armistice Day or what we now refer to as Remembrance Day, is commemorated. Particularly on this day, we remember military servicemen, servicewomen and civilians, and their contribution in two World Wars as well as more recent conflicts since then such as; Korea, Malaya, the Falklands War, Northern Ireland, the Balkans, the Gulf War, Afghanistan and Iraq. These campaigns have touched so many and it is only fitting that we honour those lost by not forgetting their sacrifice.



# Remembrance



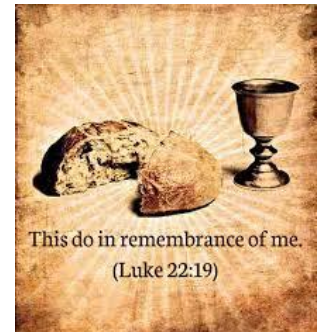
November is traditionally the month within the Catholic community to remember the departed. This coincides with the end of the Liturgical Year and the start of the new year, the first Sunday of Advent. We celebrate All Saints Day and All Souls Day.

We have come to understand and recognise that Remembrance can be a very public matter and at the same time a deeply personal subject. Each and every one of us remembers events and information in quite a different manner. Some will remember a general overview, whereas, some will remember the minutest detail and these memories will provoke quite diverse emotions for all of us. The bible attests to this throughout the scriptures. John Drane, a theologian and ordained minister mentions one example of this in his article; 'Remembrance: A Biblical Perspective' -



*As the historians of the book of Kings recalled and recorded Jehu's slaughter of the royal house of Israel, they left readers in little doubt that they regarded it as his finest moment (2 Kings 9.30—10.11). For the prophet Hosea, on the other hand, it was the sort of bloodthirsty act that should have no place among the people of God (Hosea 1.4–5).*

This example, just like WWI, exhibit momentous moments in history which, are not only remembered but, on reflection, shape character and objectives for generations to come. Conversely, remembering the past for some may have a negative effect, such as appointing blame, which can be both psychologically and spiritually destructive. There are several places in scripture where we are encouraged to remember, but there is no clearer focus of remembrance than when Jesus gave the commandment at the Last Supper "do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22, 19-20). It is a cornerstone to our faith.



The origins of the national ritual of remembrance commenced 12 months after Armistice Day and was dedicated in Great Britain on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1919 in commemoration of the one-year anniversary of the peace agreement that ended the First World War. Although Britain had been involved in noteworthy battles and wars with considerable casualties, it wasn't until 1919 that there was a significant shift in attitude to commemorate the fallen. Monuments such as the Cenotaph on Whitehall were erected, (built in 1920) which became the focus of personal beliefs and hopes. With the war claiming so

many lives there was a big demand for literature and visual symbolism. There was a passionate need to identify individual deaths and venerate them with a gravestone. To this end the government instigated the War Graves Commission (unique to the UK although, other countries have created



national focuses for their remembrance) to establish and coordinate cemeteries. A massive task was undertaken to recover all the bodies of soldiers who had died on active service and either bury them in a marked grave or commemorate by name on rolls of honour. Such 'shrines' were seen as somewhere that the families and friends of those killed could go and grieve and it would help to ease the tensions, and heal the hurt that was felt by so many. It was also a place where relatives and comrades could pay their respects.



The poet, Rupert Brooke; who himself died during the First World War on the way to Gallipoli, exposed us to some of the emotion felt in his poem 'The Soldier':

### The Soldier

*If I should die, think only this of me:  
That there's some corner of a foreign field  
That is for ever England. There shall be  
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;  
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,  
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,  
A body of England's, breathing English air,  
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.*

*And think, this heart, all evil shed away,  
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less  
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;  
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;  
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,  
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.*



It was King George V, in response to a politician's suggestion, who requested the nation to pause in silence for 2 minutes to acknowledge the war's fatalities and this became central to Armistice day events. The National Silence took place annually until the outbreak of the Second World War when it was decided that no 'celebrations' would take place on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1939. During WWII, a Sunday, close to Armistice Day was observed as a 'Day of Dedication' and at the end of the Second World War, the British Government, who wanted to honour the fallen from both wars replaced Armistice

Day with the new Sunday observance and renamed it Remembrance Sunday. Remembrance Sunday became fixed as the second Sunday of November in 1956 and the main day of commemoration. Remembrance Sunday services and parades continue to take place annually in every corner of the world.

The most recognisable symbol of Remembrance Sunday must be the red poppy. The poppy is the lasting icon of Remembrance of WWI. It is truly associated with Armistice Day and associated with WWI memorials after vast amounts of the flowers bloomed in the former battlefields of Belgium and Northern France. Indeed these fields of poppies inspired the Canadian poet John McCrae (Lt Col & Surgeon during WWI) to compose the poem 'In Flanders Fields':



### *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.*



In 1918 in response to John McCrae's poem, both Madame Anna Guerin of France and Moina Michael, an American Humanitarian, conceived and campaigned to have the red poppy of Flanders as an emblem of Remembrance. Madame Guerin had already created fabric poppies to raise funds for a charity she had established which helped reconstruct regions of France. Subsequently, artificial poppies, supplied by Madame Guerin were first sold in Britain in 1921 to raise money for the Earl Haig Fund which supported ex-servicemen and the families of those who had lost their lives in WWI. The poppies proved so popular, that the British Legion founded a factory in 1922, manned by disabled ex-servicemen, to produce their own. It continues to do so today.

# *Catholic Chaplains to the British Forces in the First & Second World Wars*

During WWI, over 800 Catholic priests served as chaplains to the British Forces and during WWII, 900 chaplains served. Of these, 39 Army Chaplains lost their lives in the First World War and 16 Army Chaplains in the Second.

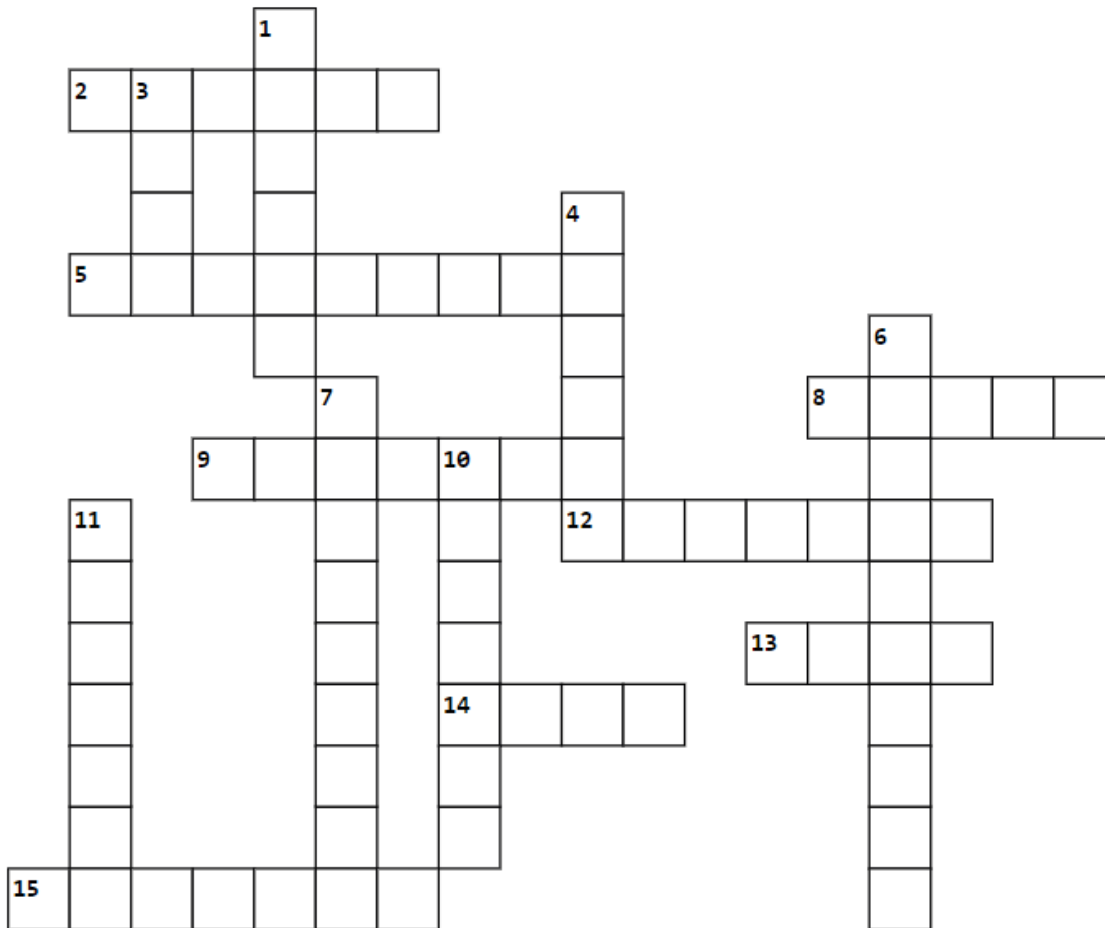
<i>WWI Chaplains - Roll of Honour</i>			
<i>Fr Thomas Leo Baines</i>	<i>Fr Umberto Michael Bertini</i>	<i>Fr Patrick Looby</i>	<i>Fr Cornelius Francis Maher</i>
<i>Fr Henry Norbert Birt</i>	<i>Fr Matthew Forster Burdess</i>	<i>Fr Lewis Joseph Matthews</i>	<i>Fr Cornelius Raphael McAuliffe</i>
<i>Fr Timothy Carey</i>	<i>Fr Stephen Clarke</i>	<i>Fr John Joseph O'Donnell</i>	<i>Fr Henry Cuthbert McGinity</i>
<i>Fr Herbert John Collins</i>	<i>Fr Arthur Martin Cowd</i>	<i>Fr John Joseph McIlvaine</i>	<i>Fr Walter Philip Montagu</i>
<i>Fr Denis Doyle</i>	<i>Fr William Joseph Doyle MC</i>	<i>Fr Robert Monteith</i>	<i>Fr Laurence O'Dea</i>
<i>Fr William Joseph Finn</i>	<i>Fr John J Fitzgibbon MC</i>	<i>Fr James Isidore O'Meehan</i>	<i>Fr Donal O'Sullivan</i>
<i>Fr Michael Patrick Gordon</i>	<i>Fr Peter Grobel</i>	<i>Fr Matthew Vincent Prendegast</i>	<i>Fr Michael Ryan</i>
<i>Fr David Michael Guthrie</i>	<i>Fr John Gwynn</i>	<i>Fr James Shine</i>	<i>Fr Joseph Strickland</i>
<i>Fr Jeremiah Austin Hartigan</i>	<i>Fr Bernard Kavanagh</i>	<i>Fr Charles Watson</i>	<i>Fr John A Watters</i>
<i>Fr Simon Stock Knapp DSO MC</i>	<i>Fr James Thomas Leeson</i>	<i>Fr Charles Whitefoord</i>	
<i>WWII Chaplains - Roll of Honour</i>			
<i>Fr Gerrard Barry</i>	<i>Fr Bernard Joseph Benson</i>	<i>Fr Andrew Boyle</i>	<i>Fr Bernard Costello</i>
<i>Fr James Gerard Curran</i>	<i>Fr Peter Francis Firth</i>	<i>Fr William Gerard Gilgunn</i>	<i>Fr John Hayes</i>
<i>Fr Joseph Hirst</i>	<i>Fr Geoffrey Gervase Hobson-Matthews</i>	<i>Fr David Francis Hourigan</i>	<i>Fr James William Kenny</i>
<i>Fr Patrick Joseph McMahon</i>	<i>Fr Gerard Nesbitt</i>	<i>Fr James O'Callaghan</i>	<i>Fr Edward Richardson</i>

## *Prayer*



Ever-living God, We remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same place calm our fears, bring justice to our peoples and establish harmony among the nations through Jesus christ our Lord. Amen

## Crossword Number:4 Which Saints?



### Across:

1. sweet and buzzy
3. We need help with our marriage
4. I have a migraine?
6. I'm not feeling well
7. I'm in love!
10. I love to Sing!
11. Aiding Mental Health

### Down:

2. Fancy an Irish beer?
5. Put that fire out!
8. Only on Fridays
9. ecologically friendly
12. Lost and Found perhaps?
13. They say I am a lost cause!
14. Cannot see where I am going?
15. Direct phone line?

Answers to Newsletter Issue 6, Crossword No:3 - Across: 5. Lavabo bowl, 8. Monstrance, 10. Sacristy, 11. Ambo, 12. Crucifix, 13. Dalmatic, Down: 1. Ciborium, 2. Paten, 3. Font, 4. Chalice, 6. Boat, 7. Pyx, 8. Missal, 9. Thurible

Answers to Newsletter Issue 7 will be published in Issue 8 or email Karen at: [ArmyRCPAA21@gmail.com](mailto:ArmyRCPAA21@gmail.com)





## *The Cathedral of the Forces St Michael & St George*

During Mass on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October, Bishop Paul Mason administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to: Isabella, Issac, Jacob, Jan and Michael. All candidates have been undergoing instruction over the past few months. I am sure you will all join us with congratulations and prayers for these young people as they embark on their faith journey.



## Fr Paschal Hanrahan PRCC (A) - Out and About!

### Hohenfels, Bavaria

In his capacity of Assistant Chaplain General (ACG) at 3 (UK) Div, this September saw Fr Paschal deployed on Exercise SABRE JUNCTION at Hohenfels, Bavaria. Hohenfels is home to the Joint Multinational Readiness Centre. The exercise saw 3 (UK) Div act as HICON (Validate) a US Brigade 2CAV. It is one more step closer to inter-operability between our armies and the exercise itself saw participants from the US, UK and a number of Eastern European nations.



## Bishopric of The Forces Retreats 2021

Are you in need of stillness and sanctuary? Scripture gives us many examples of our Lord Jesus withdrawing from noise and bustle to pray and to gain respite (Mark 3:7, Luke 5:16). Subject to Government restrictions, there is the opportunity to find that same peace at one of the Bishopric of the Forces Retreats planned for 2021:

Ampleforth Abbey, North Yorkshire 29 Nov- 2 Dec 21 DIN Reference 2020DIN01-124 gives more details. In the meantime, to express an interest or to receive an application form, contact

[Caroline.Routledge475@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Caroline.Routledge475@mod.gov.uk) or  
[rafprccpastoralassistant457@outlook.com](mailto:rafprccpastoralassistant457@outlook.com)



### **BREAKING NEWS!** Bishopric of the Forces Retreats 2022

Douai Abbey 15 - 18 Mar 22 (TBC)  
Belmont Abbey 20 - 23 Jun 22 (TBC)  
Worth Abbey 3 - 7 Oct 22 (Confirmed)  
Ampleforth Abbey 28 Nov - 1 Dec 22 (Confirmed)



### Key Dates in November & December

All Souls – 2<sup>nd</sup> November

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica –  
9<sup>th</sup> November

Remembrance Sunday – 14<sup>th</sup> November

Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe –  
21<sup>st</sup> November

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – 28<sup>th</sup> November

St Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland –  
30<sup>th</sup> November

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – 5<sup>th</sup> December

Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin  
Mary – 8<sup>th</sup> December

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Of Advent – 12<sup>th</sup> December

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – 19<sup>th</sup> December

The Nativity of the Lord – 25<sup>th</sup> December

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – 26<sup>th</sup>  
December

An excellent website with weekly reflections on all the upcoming Sunday readings can be found at:  
<https://www.tarsus.ie/>

## CATHOLIC MILITARY ASSOCIATION the official network for Defence Catholics



We exist to support Catholics in the UK Armed Forces.

We are a lay association of the faithful whose members cooperate to support Catholicism in the UK Armed Forces. We strive to inspire one-another in the Faith, to grow through prayer and the sacraments, and to offer up our sufferings, persevering together in the universal call to holiness.

We are the official Defence Catholic Association, formally approved by the Right Reverend Paul Mason, Bishop of the Forces. We are a member of the Defence Christian Network.

We are serving personnel, helping others. Find us at: <https://www.catholicmilitaryassociation.org.uk/>

## Information.....

If you wish to know more about Roman Catholic matters within the Army Faith Community, please contact: **Mrs Karen Horn MBE** Pastoral Administrative Assistant (PAA) to PRCC(A) at: [ArmyRCPAA21@gmail.com](mailto:ArmyRCPAA21@gmail.com)