

Thought for the Week
10th November 2019
32nd Sunday in Ordinary time

The readings this weekend focus on life after death. We reflect on this as we pray for and commemorate the dead throughout the month of November.

The Sadducees in the gospel reading considered this, albeit presenting a very unusual situation.

The seven brothers in the first reading show great courage and utter indifference to suffering - almost as though they could not wait to die at men's hands in the full knowledge and confidence of God's promise that He would raise them up to eternal life.

Christians all over the world believe in the resurrection of the dead. Indeed, we Catholics recite this in our creed at every mass. But are we ready to die? Are we confident of dying for and within God's law, to live again forever?

Some of us may have witnessed the death of loved ones, the dying process occurring over time, sometimes less so. I think dying is painful, it certainly was for each of the seven brothers in the first reading. But so is being born.

And so perhaps it should be that as we come into this earth, with labour pain, we are likely to leave the earth with varying elements of pain ourselves, and for those around us witnessing it. The assurance is that we will only die once - to live forever thereafter.

May our Lord who has given us his love and, through his grace, comfort us and strengthen us in everything good that we do and say.
Amen

Yvonne Mubanga