

Bulletin insert - Weekend of 10/11 November:

The Archdiocese hearing in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) begins in London on Monday 12th November, and runs until Friday 16th November.

The Archdiocese believes that the work being done by IICSA is of great significance and supports the aim of strengthening and improving safeguarding practices and cultures within the Church.

The welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults is a fundamental priority for the Archdiocese. Fostering a culture which has safeguarding at its very heart remains a key part of our work.

If you would like to speak to someone independent of the Church you can contact the NSPCC on **0808 800 5000**. Please pray with us for all victims of abuse, and for all those involved in the work of this important Inquiry.

Last weekend's Pastoral Letter on this matter can be found on the Archdiocese website

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/>

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**Thought for the week
32nd Sunday of the Year (B)
11th November 2018**

Remembrance is an enigma. This weekend marks the centenary of the end of The Great War – the war to end all wars - but there is no-one alive today who can remember that war. However, we still mark the courage and self-sacrifice of those who gave so much that we can live in freedom and peace.

We can listen to or read their testimonies and imagine the sufferings and pain they went through but, as part of their legacy, it falls to us to keep the peace that was so hard won. In the years since WW1, there have been over 200 wars worldwide and the pictures of the current conflicts in Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan, Mexico, Myanmar, Somalia, Nigeria and Iraq are horrific.

What can we do when faced with such inhuman behaviour? We can pray for peace and reconciliation. We can work for justice between nations. We can help to combat the poverty that leads to division and strife.

Within our own communities there are also divisions, prejudice and inequalities. Although these are unlikely to lead to war, they can foster a sense of injustice and resentment. It is often claimed that a fair society should be judged by how well it treats its least advantaged members. How do we treat those we meet who are different from us in their colour, religion, education, income or politics?

There is a special place for those who seek to bridge the divide between disputing parties, whether they be nations, political parties, different sections of our community or families,

*“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God”
Matthew 5:9.*

A Parishioner

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