

Thought for the week
33rd Sunday of the Year (B)
18th November 2018

Last Sunday, I was asked to take part in the Remembrance Sunday service at St John's church in Kidmore End: commemorating especially the 100 years since the end of the First World War.

The cubs and scouts lead the procession to the war memorial where there were readings and prayers, a piper, and a horn player to sound the Last Post and then a 2 minute silence. We then returned to the church and 175 representatives and parishioners from all the churches in the area packed the benches to remember and pray for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedom and way of life.

Sadly many people continue to die as a result of war and conflict today and we see a stark contrast between the world as God created it and the world in which we live.

God looked upon his creation and saw that it was good... very good.

Throughout history mankind has lost trust in God's goodness. Mankind has abused the freedom it has been given and disobeyed God, and this continues today. The world thinks it doesn't need God's help to decide what is good or evil.

The consequences of this are that individuals suffer insecurity, worthlessness, rejection.... Families and communities experience relationships characterised by fear, manipulation, exploitation.... The world experiences wars, poverty, injustice.... Fortunately God hasn't stopped loving us and He sent Jesus to restore our relationship with God and each other. Jesus comes as a shepherd to guide us, a healer to mend all that is broken, a saviour to set the world free from sin and its consequences. St Paul writes in today's second reading,

"Christ, has offered one single sacrifice for sins...By virtue of that one single offering he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying."

As November continues, let us continue to remember and pray for those who we know who have died and for all those who sacrificed their lives in war. We must ask ourselves how we can continue Jesus' mission and become worthy of that sacrifice. We might not be able to stop wars, but can we bring dignity to a neighbour or peace to a family? And when mankind returns to its intended relationship with God all wars will cease.

A parishioner