

Remembering

In the Church of England's calendar, November is a month for remembering. The month begins with All Saints' and All Souls,' traditionally dates to remember faithful believers who have gone before us, and our own loved ones who have died. Many churches hold All Souls' services, where we can light candles for our loved ones and remember them together. Because of COVID, we have not been able to hold an All Souls' service this year, but there are prayers and information on our [A Church Near You](#) webpages to guide you, if you wish, as you set aside a special time to remember your loved ones at home.

Then on the second Sunday in November, our churches join our nation in remembering those whose lives have been lost, or changed forever, by the tragedy of war and conflict. Again this year, Remembrance Sunday looks very different from our usual commemorations, but again there is information on our [A Church Near You](#) website to guide your remembrance at home, if you wish. For many of us this year, our remembrance both at All Souls and Remembrance Sunday, will include those affected by COVID, either those we know personally, or as we remember COVID's impact nationally and globally.

Finally at the end of the month, just before the start of Advent, the Church of England celebrates Christ the King. This is the day when Christians celebrate that Christ was a King like no other, a King who came to show us how much God loves us all, and to teach us how to truly love too. A King who chose to die, because he would not take any action to hurt those who sought to kill him. A King who came to teach us that true greatness lies only in serving others, in seeking their well-being above all else.

For me, our celebration of Christ the King puts all our remembering into perspective. It is through Christ, my King, that the pain of human grief is eased as I remember God's love for us is greater than both life and death, and nothing can separate us from God's love. And it is through Christ, my King, that I believe Remembrance Sunday to have meaning only as an occasion for repentance for our part in all that causes division and conflict, and as a time to recommit ourselves to be those who always seek reconciliation. And I believe reconciliation to be worth working for, because I believe love to be the only power on earth that can overcome evil.

Yours in Christ,
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