

Homily 32nd Sunday (A) Remembrance Sunday 12/11/17

“So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.”

Soldiers at war have to stay awake to be on guard against an enemy that is ever unpredictable.

Mothers have to stay awake to feed their new-born babies.

Many people working long and unsocial hours have to stay awake.

Insomniacs and many elderly people have to stay awake through no choice of their own.

Christians need to stay awake, not just to fend off an unpredictable enemy, but in order to be fully aware and receptive for the arrival of God Himself.

So Remembrance Day is about being awake, being aware, being alert to what is really going on around us. And most of all being alert to the great love that God is desperately trying to pour upon us.

Remembrance Day is also about wisdom. *Watch for her early and you will have no trouble.* The wisdom to know when to speak and when to be silent, when to fight and when to sue for peace, when to let things go and when to stand p for what is good and true. It is the wisdom that requires of our leaders – not just good management skills or business acumen – but the wisdom that plumbs the depths, the wisdom that genuinely respects the dignity of every human person, the wisdom that knows what human life, in all its rich diversity, is really about.

“Almighty and merciful God, graciously keep us from all adversity, so that unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in **freedom** of heart the things that are yours.” - Not just political freedom, but freedom of heart, the freedom to stay awake, the freedom to pursue the things of God.

We remember today all those who gave their lives for freedom in two World Wars and many conflicts since.

But we also remember the need for more spiritual freedom, here and now in the 21st Century, for that *wisdom that is bright and does not grow dim* and for *enough oil in our lamps to stay awake*. The banquet is ready. The bridegroom is close at hand. And after all, we Christians are not just bridesmaids, we are the bride, beloved of the Lord.

So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.

Fr Michael