

Tony Thinking Aloud cxxix

In November we remember...

The month begins with All Saints Day. Remember 'we are all called to be saints'. We have the saints we know by name and think of them on their special days in the year. Saint James Barton July 25th, Saint Mary Dunstall March 25th, Saint Michael and all Angels. Tatenhill September 29th.

Every day we can do a saintly act, can help someone, do something special, and be alongside someone in their problem or anxiety. This is how we are called to be saints.

On November 2nd we come to All Souls Day when we remember especially members of our family or friends who have passed from this world. There is a special All Souls Requiem Mass.

We move then to Remembrance Sunday; we are mindful and remember those who have died in time of conflict – those who have died so that we may live in peace! The Poppy is the symbol. The Act of Remembrance on Remembrance Sunday and on Armistice Day, November 11th.

If you have not been you will find a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum a memorable experience. You will appreciate, reflect and enjoy the beautiful peaceful setting and the many memorials.

Advent Sunday comes on November 27th. The beginning of the church year. Four weeks of thinking about the meaning of Christmas and why it is important. Do not let us get overwhelmed with all the other preparations for Christmas, the meals, the presents, the cards and decorations which are good, but we need to remember what the reason is!

Many people buy Advent Calendars. Original Advent Calendars were a countdown to keeping Christmas with pictures of Jesus and Mary and other appropriate pictures in each day in one of the windows. There are calendars like that today if you look for them.

So, in November we remember... in Advent we prepare our thoughts about the Christian meaning for the observations. We do so remembering Jesus coming into the world...