

Reflection Wednesday 4th November

Luke 22:14-19

¹⁴ When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfilment in the kingdom of God."

¹⁷ After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. ¹⁸ For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

¹⁹ And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

"Do this in remembrance of me."

It is many months since I have spoken those words in a communion service, and it may well be many months since you shared in a communion service.

November is a month of Remembrance.

November the 1st is "All Saints day when we remember the saints of the Church; some canonised by the church many just "ordinary" believers like you and I, living for Jesus.

November the 5th is Bonfire Night, Guy Fawkes Day; "Remember, Remember, the 5th of November, gunpowder, treason and plot."

This year the 8th will be Remembrance Sunday and the 11th will of course be Armistice Day.

All four are days of Remembrance. As the years go by we move further away from the origin of the event's founding and the events that are commemorated but still the occasion be marked.

On Friday I will be sharing in leading a funeral for a friend of mine who I have known for 25 years, It will be a day of Remembrance. Stories will be shared regarding David's life; many will contain humour for that was part of David's life.

Sadly the reason behind the events of November the 5th 1605 is lost to most people. What is marked is The Gunpowder Plot, a failed attempt to blow up England's King James I (1566-1625) and the Parliament.

Few of those who would be standing around the bonfires would know the reason behind the plot.

The plot was organized by Robert Catesby (c. 1572-1605) in an effort to end the persecution of Roman Catholics by the English government.

Over the years the reason is lost but the "fun" goes on.

I am glad that I have grown up in an era of ecumenism; many of those who helped me grow spiritually, in my late teens and early 20's, were Roman Catholics.

Sadly there are still some who would "step away" from Roman Catholics and other parts of the Christian Church.

In our Church traditions and practises we may do things differently but that which unites us is greater than that which divides us. It is our common love for Jesus who said, "do this in remembrance of me" that is important.

We may not gather in communal worship for at least four more weeks due to the "lockdown"; we do not know when we shall next share in a Communion service in one of our Churches but let us not forget the reason behind it, the Love of God expressed in Jesus, his life, death and resurrection.

We will remember Him.