



**St Andrew's Parish Church Guernsey**  
**Remembrance Sunday, 14 November 2021**  
**Readings: Paul's Letter to the Romans 8:31-39 and St John 14: 1-7**  
**Given by Rev Juliette E C Robilliard**

**Is there a difference?**

What's in a name? Armistice or Remembrance? As you know, the first observance of the Armistice was declared on 11 November 1918 at the cessation of World War 1 and, thereafter, the observance of the fallen continued at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, of the 11<sup>th</sup> day, of the 11<sup>th</sup> month. During the World War 2, for logistical reasons, the observance was moved to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of November. In 1946, the UK Parliament decreed that this be known as Remembrance Sunday, in order to observe all of the conflicts that occurred since the World War 1.

**What is the difference?**

But to get back to my question, what's in a name? The definition of the word 'Armistice' means the cessation of war. Whereas 'Remembrance' has various connotations. Today, we do indeed remember the fallen and the sacrifice of their lives in the cause of peace. We remember the horrors of war, both the death of the fallen and, the dislocation it causes to those who live, whether that dislocation is physical or, mental or, spiritual. We remember in order to be more determined to engage in détente rather than engage in war. If, however, 'Remembrance' was just to recall past events and to act as a moral and social spur to future generations, then something would be lacking. Whereas it is comforting to think that someone might remember us after we have died, it is even more comforting to us now, to reflect that 'Remembrance' falls on a Sunday reminding us that death need not be a loveless, lonely end to life. In St John's Gospel Jesus before his own death, gives his disciples great hope that death is not the end. He will rise again, and ascend to heaven. Those are lovely theological words but where's the comfort for those who are slain? Where's the comfort for any single one of us who come to the end of our lives in whatever circumstances?

**Is there hope?**

Jesus tells us that in his ascended life he has gone ahead to prepare a place for us and that when we die, he comes to receive us. The reason being that he is the Way, the Truth and the Life for those who believe in him: therefore, if we believe his words, we need not worry. St Paul picks up this theme in his letter to the Romans "If God is for us, who is against us?" Whatever hardships we face and whatever or, whoever threatens us in life, even death, cannot separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All well and good but, to coin a colloquialism, 'Fine words butter no parsnips!' Sometimes, we need something tangible to strengthen what we hope for in our hearts and minds. Shortly, I will celebrate Holy Communion and offer you all a tangible piece of Christ's loving sacrifice for us, which was followed by his resurrection conquering death. Or, as the words of the post-communion prayer for Remembrance Sunday say:

'Gracious Lord,  
in this holy sacrament  
you give substance to our hope:  
bring us at the last to that fullness of  
life for which we long;'

So, let us not worry, but believe the promises Christ has given us and come to the altar, whether we have faith or, whether we would like to have more: here with open hearts, hands and minds let us really live that hope.

Amen.