



Anglican Catholic Church



Diocese of the United Kingdom

Catholic Faith † Orthodox Worship † Apostolic Order

October 2024

Dear friends and colleagues,

It will soon be Remembrance Sunday, when we remember all those who didn't come back, those who have fallen in wars past and present. Some might have a personal memory of losing a family member or friend, but as the years, and the people, pass, those memories will become an inherited *remembrance*, passed on from one generation to the next.

These things are part of history, but for millions of people since then war has not been history but a part of their lives – a reality. Northern Ireland, The Falklands, the Gulf wars, Iraq, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Gaza, are very much in people's recent or current memory.

All around the country wooden crosses will be laid or planted, each with a name on it which means that there is a special place for that name in the heart of the person who places it.

It is always important that we remind ourselves of the dreadful cost of war if we are ever to live in peace. The most visible outward sign of our remembrance is the simple red flower, the Flanders Poppy. It is of course the symbol of the Royal British Legion, but more than that, across the world, it has come to represent the sacrifice made by all those men, women and children who have lost their lives through conflict. From early history flowers have become symbols; a Clover leaf for the Holy Trinity, Lilies for purity, Roses for England, and for love, Daffodils for Wales, and for the Marie Curie charity, the Thistle for Scotland, and the Shamrock for Ireland. The poppy wreaths and crosses that will be laid at so many memorials are for those who have given their lives. But we will also remember in our prayers the injured and their families, and those for whom we have no recorded names. The poppy is our symbol of Remembrance, but let us not forget that through the pain and loss there is always the light of hope, love and faith through Jesus Christ.

The Bible records much violence, many wars and countless deaths, especially in the Old Testament. In fact there has probably never been a time when conflict has not existed somewhere in the world.

Peace is a precious commodity; it comes from trust, patience, tolerance and faith. It results from mutual agreement and understanding. Peace has never been easy to achieve; it's actually very hard work to establish and keep the peace at any level in society.

Yet regardless of the difficulties, peace must be what we all strive for. It's what Jesus taught us. The driving force for peace must come from us, it must come from our remembrance of those who have given their lives in war; it must come from those injured, physically and psychologically, in conflict, and for their families and loved ones. "Lest we forget." Peace will not come if we forget; it won't happen if we wait for others to work for it. It is through our vigilance, our voice, and our prayers that peace and light will emerge.

Fr. Raymond Thompson

Archdeacon



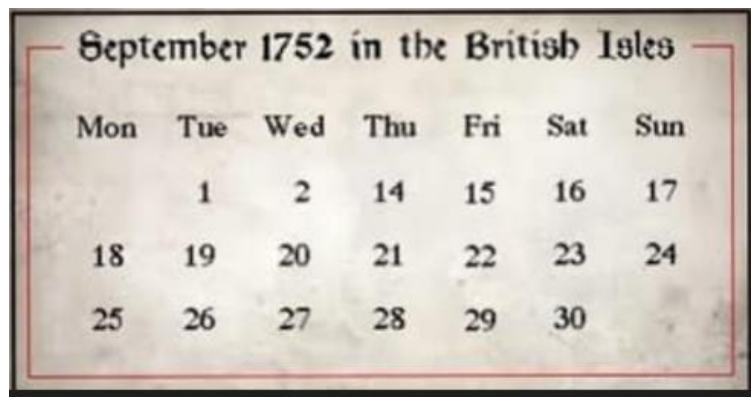
Mobile: 07443 438465 Email: rtompson@anglicancatholic.org

Diocesan website: <http://www.anglicancatholic.org.uk/>

Email: diocesanoffice@anglicancatholic.org.uk

Time Flies!

If you often wonder where the time has gone, you might reflect with sympathy on those sentiments as expressed by our 18th century forebears. On 14th September 1752 Britain and its colonies adopted the Gregorian calendar and “lost” 11 days. The British Calendar Act of 1751 meant that if it was your birthday on any of those lost days you would have had to make other plans!



September 1752 in the British Isles						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Until that year Britain had been using the Julian calendar (introduced by Julius Caesar in 46BC). Just like the Gregorian the Julian had 365 days, with an extra day added every fourth year. But that missed out a day every 128 years, meaning that the year was effectively 11 minutes too short compared with the solar year.

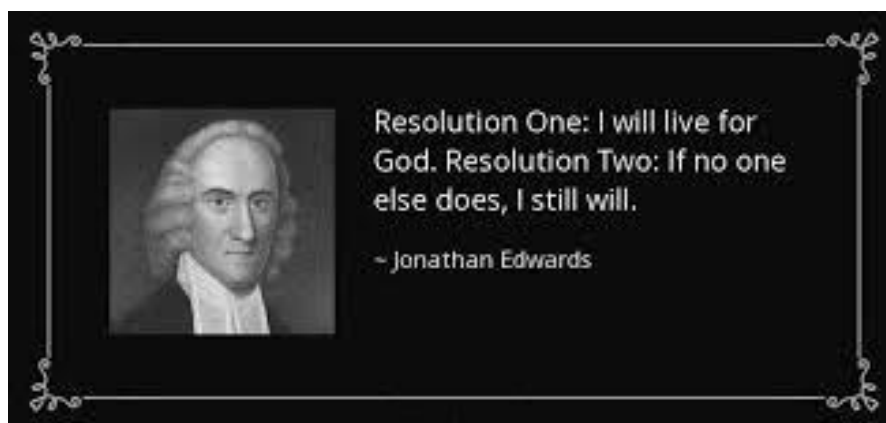
Before 1582 Easter was celebrated at or around the spring equinox, generally agreed to be 21st March. This had been decided at the First Council of Nicea in AD325. But with each year being 11 minutes short Easter was closing in on Christmas at the rate of just over a week every thousand years. That may not seem like something to worry most of us, but it was a mathematical conundrum which couldn't be ignored.

In 1582, during the reign of Pope Gregory XIII, a new system was determined that would help regulate Easter more reliably. So in that year the Roman Catholic countries of France, Italy, Portugal and Spain changed their calendars to correct the accumulated errors, and had to lose ten days in the process.

Britain, a Protestant country, decided not to follow this act of apparent Popery, even though it was obviously a very sensible thing to do. We retained the old, fundamentally flawed, way of doing things for almost another 200 years, by which time the difference had grown to 11 days.

1752 was also the first year that had begun on 1st January. Until an Act of Parliament in 1750 (The Calendar (New Style) Act) the 25th March was observed as the start of the new year. This, of course, meant that 1751 was just 282 days long, running from 25th March to 31st December. And 1752 was only 354 days long.

The changeover to the Gregorian calendar is also the reason the new tax year begins on 6th April. Before then it began on New Year's Day, 25th March, so was shunted forward by those missing 11 days where it has remained ever since.



(My “desk picture” on the front page shows an Isle of Sheppey scene viewed from my desk, or from the garden, or within a few minutes of it.)