

NOVEMBER 11, 2021  
Remembrance Day  
Matthew 5: 1-12

“LEST WE FORGET.”

As we celebrate today Remembrance Day, our gospel centers on the Blessedness or Happiness. This is called the Beatitudes or Sermon on the Mount as it was addressed to the crowd on the mountain, a favoured place of Israelites for encountering God. Our gospel shows Jesus as a respectful and authoritative preacher and teacher. He declares to His listeners, disciples and followers during His time, and now to us, the fundamentals of life in the Kingdom of God. He presents a new concept and image of the Kingdom and encourages those who wants to follow Him to live and share that vision.

“In Matthew’s Sermon on the Mount, Jesus speaks of ‘Beatitudes,’ but in Luke’s Sermon on the Plain, Jesus drops a series of bombshells. He takes the accepted standards of the times and turns them upside down: To those who are considered the ‘haves’ of society, Jesus warns ‘Woe to you!’ – wealth and power are not the stuff of the kingdom of God; but to the ‘have nots,’ Jesus says, ‘Happy and blessed are you’ – love, humble selflessness, compassion and generosity are the treasure of God's realm. Jesus promises his followers poverty, suffering, persecution and grief -- but their hope in God will be rewarded with perfect and complete joy.”<sup>1</sup> We find this complete joy and happiness in serving our Lord and our brothers and sisters and even giving our lives for others. This is the importance of our celebration today, Remembrance Day.

This “is an opportunity, as a nation, to remember and appreciate those who have died so that we might live ... freely. The civil blessings of stability, prosperity, and freedom we enjoy are a testament to the price they paid. As Catholics, we remember those who have gone before and pray for their souls. I, like many priests on this day, will offer Mass for the repose of those who have died in service to our great nation. Honoring the fallen

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<sup>1</sup> [stories4homilies.blogspot.com](http://stories4homilies.blogspot.com)

is important for us who tend to take our blessings for granted. But maybe, most important of all, Remembrance Day can help inspire us to the greatest thing of which we are capable, by God's grace: sacrificial love. Love that sacrifices for the beloved is divine and the only true love. In remembering what Our Lord did, what all His saints have done in memory of Him, and what others have done, we are reoriented to what life is really all about. We are more likely, in our turn, to love someone at our expense. At its best, Remembrance Day is a civil and military echo of a profound theological truth: that God, "who is love" (1 Jn 4:8), sacrificed Himself so that we might live (1 Pt 2:24)."<sup>2</sup> Jesus Christ who perfectly exemplified a sacrifice that could not have been more selfless or clearly intentional, who saves us because He loves us unconditionally and selfless.

My brothers and sisters, as we remember all our fallen soldiers who sacrificed their lives for us to live and enjoy freedom, we pray for them that God may reward them eternal life in heaven. And we too may imitate them by our act of sacrifice little it may be for others everyday. We will never forget them and always be thankful for their sacrifices. Lest we forget. Amen.

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<sup>2</sup> [www.catholicsun.org/do-this-in-memory-of-me-a-catholic-reflection-on-memorial-day/](http://www.catholicsun.org/do-this-in-memory-of-me-a-catholic-reflection-on-memorial-day/)