

REMEMBRANCE Sunday is just ahead of us and Sunday, November 13, should not be forgotten.

Nor should we ever forget these words, "They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old: age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

They appear in the middle of the poem 'For the Fallen', written by Laurence Binyon in 1914 at the start of the First World War. This was two years before the Battle of the Somme in 1916, the centenary of which we remember this year.

'For the Fallen' begins with these words: "With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children, England mourns for her dead across the sea. Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit, fallen in the cause of the free."

The two keywords are 'proud thanksgiving', and no doubt these are feelings and sentiments shared by people throughout the world also today when in

many ways war is very different and more 'secretive' compared to what it used to be. Today we have to face cyber wars, terrorist atrocities, secret and deadly deals being brokered. However, the sacrifices made by those who serve the cause and the agonies suffered by those who mourn their dead are just the same, unchanged, undiminished, indeed unbearable.

Being the current Chaplain for Caldicot British Legion, you will not be surprised to hear me say that we must never forget Remembrance Sunday, but always continue to remember and honour those who gave – and continue to give – their lives that we may live.

'For the Fallen' ends with these words, "As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust, moving in marches upon the heavenly plain; as the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness, to the end, to the end, they remain", they being The Fallen, now as then, without whom you and I just would not be.

Preben Andersen

Thought for the weak



with the Rev Preben Andersen

To be read after the penultimate paragraph :- You do not have to be a Christian to make that promise, although of course as Christians we have Jesus as our example of the ultimate sacrifice yet in that promising each one of us new life for evermore. Rarely in history has that assurance and truth been more important to hear and to share.