

SUNDAY PLUS

Remember

The end of the world

By Brian Fahy

The man collected the death certificate for his wife and went into town to register the death. He felt strange and numb even. Coming outside again, into the air he walked up the familiar street and saw a bus coming down towards him. "Why is the bus still running?" he thought to himself. "Don't they know that Mary has died? Why is the world going on as normal, as if nothing has happened? Is the world callous and heartless?"

Later, he would remember the haunting voice of Skeeter Davis, singing about the end of the world and grieving the end of love. "Don't they know it's the end of the world? It ended when you said goodbye."

At this time of year we

remember all those who have died and gone before us. We hear the words of Jesus who seeks to console us and to strengthen our resolve in daily life. He wants to protect us from the shock of traumatic events by telling us to expect them. Just as his own death devastated his disciples, so the calamities of life today can threaten our faith and our ability to persevere.

The poor are with us always, the Lord told us, and always need our help. Today St Paul urges us "to go on quietly working". Remembering is not a wistful thing to do, but an act of living faith. All shall be well and all manner of things shall be well.

Brian Fahy describes himself as an "apprentice poet". His website is to be found at www.errispoetry.com.



There be a sacred fire in us, which burns continuously and which nothing can extinguish. And it is not easy, but it must be so.

Pope Francis

They shall grow not old

By Robert Laurence Binyon

They shall grow not 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...

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land, they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

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.

We remember

By Cowan Watson

St Luke's Gospel was written in the mid to late 80s and Jesus' prophecy that the temple in Jerusalem would be destroyed had already come to pass. The Temple had been the centre of worship and a beacon of hope for the Jewish community and the impact of its destruction was calamitous for the nation of Israel. But Jesus is asking us to dig deep, to

discover a yet more profound hope which is not based on institutions or bricks and mortar but is centred on God alone. When calamity and disaster strike, Jesus is promising us that with faith, endurance and perseverance we shall overcome. Today is Remembrance Sunday when we remember the sacrifices that were made in past wars. We remember the fallen, the countless men and women who, when faced with fearful odds, stood firm and won life for the generations to come.

Cowan Watson, the parish secretary for the cathedral parish in Aberdeen, is also the editor of the diocese's magazine, The Light of the North.

Lord of hope, today we remember all those who gave their lives that we might live in peace. Give them eternal rest and comfort their grieving families. ☩ Amen.

Today: Malachi 3:19-20 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12 Luke 21:5-19	Monday: Apocalypse 1:1-4; 2:1-5 Luke 18:35-43	Tuesday: Apocalypse 3:1-6, 14-22 Luke 19:1-10	Wednesday: Apocalypse 4:1-11 Luke 19:11-28 (S): St Margaret (Feast): Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-	20, 30-31 or 1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:13; Matthew 25:31-46	Thursday: Apocalypse 5:1-10 Luke 19:41-44	Friday: Apocalypse 10:8-11 Luke 19:45-48	Saturday: Apocalypse 11:4-12 Luke 20:27-40	Next Sunday: 2 Samuel 5:1-3 Colossians 1:12-20 Luke 23:35-43
---------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------