

A reflection for November

November is a month full of significant dates and occasions.

We could begin the month remembering those saints and souls who have passed through death before us, and are now in new life and peace with God.

There's the excitement of fire and fireworks around the 5th, which is now a great excuse for community events enjoying the magic of light in the darkness.

We take time out of busyness to stop and remember war and all its victims – those we knew, those we will never know; those who died, those who live with its effects – and we pray for peace.

This year, late November brings the start of Advent. In the Church that is a season of preparation for the coming of Christ – as he came as a baby, and as he promised he would come again to bring God's kingdom of love and justice.

The very end of the month points us to St. Andrew – now a very Scottish celebration, but remembering a fisherman who chose to follow Jesus, and brought many others to do the same.

All of this takes place against a backdrop of Christmas preparation – and in a wider context of ongoing crisis, conflict and catastrophe across the world.

So across the month, November reflects much of life – celebrations and commemorations, life and death, light and darkness, looking back and looking forward. Life is rich and mixed, and God is there in all of it.

As Paul wrote in Romans 8:35, 38-39:

What can separate us from the love of Christ?

Can affliction or hardship? Can persecution, hunger, nakedness, danger or sword?...

*I am convinced that there is nothing in death or life,
in the realm of spirits or superhuman powers,
in the world as it is or the world as it shall be,
in the forces of the universe, in heights or depths -
nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

May we find hope in that, through everything November brings our way.