

St Bede's RC Catholic School and Byron 6th
Form College

Weekly Theme

Remembrance

7th November - 11th November 2022



The liturgical
colour is **GREEN**.
We are in
ORDINARY time.

The poppy is the enduring symbol of remembrance of the First World War. It is strongly linked with Armistice Day (11 November), but the poppy's origin as a popular symbol of remembrance lies in the landscapes of the First World War.

Poppies were a common sight, especially on the Western Front. They flourished in the soil churned up by the fighting and shelling. The flower provided Canadian doctor John McCrae with inspiration for his poem 'In Flanders Fields', which he wrote whilst serving in Ypres in 1915. It was first published in *Punch*, having been rejected by *The Spectator*. In 1918, in response to McCrae's poem, American humanitarian Moina Michael wrote 'And now the Torch and Poppy Red, we wear in honour of our dead...'. She campaigned to make the poppy a symbol of remembrance of those who had died in the war.

Artificial poppies were first sold in Britain in 1921 to raise money for the Earl Haig Fund in support of ex-servicemen and the families of those who had died in the conflict. They were supplied by Anna Guérin, who had been manufacturing the flowers in France to raise money for war orphans. Selling poppies proved so popular that in 1922 the British Legion founded a factory - staffed by disabled ex-servicemen - to produce its own. It continues to do so today.

9th November, 1918 – Moina Michael sits in the office of the YMCA Overseas War Secretaries Headquarters in New York. On her break she flips through the pages of the 'Ladies Home Journal' and finds a reprint of the 'In Flanders Field' poem. She vows then to always remember the troops and writes her own poem in reply on the back of an envelope.

She decides to wear a poppy to remember the men and goes out to buy as many silk poppies as she can from a local department store. She sells and gives them away to the delegates of a war conference taking place in the building. They tell the rest of the delegates about the idea.



Remembrance Day Reflection

On Friday we think about those people who have lost their lives in conflicts past and present. It is a national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life.

We also think about those members of our families who have died. Let us pray that they find peace and remember that they have eternal life with God the Father.

*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.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkKEynoTwp8>

