

WEEKLY SERMON

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Peace Building

Along with many thousands of people across the county and the country, last weekend I stopped and remembered the great cost of conflict on Remembrance Sunday. Each Remembrance Sunday we stop and remember the horrors of war, the 16 million who died as a direct result of WW1, the 85 million deaths in WW2 a few decades later and the countless deaths in conflicts in the years since then.

Of course, we do not simply remember the horror for its own sake. Each Remembrance Sunday we recall the horror of war and then recommit ourselves to being peacemakers who will build peace. That commitment to building peace is not an afterthought to put a positive spin on the service so that we can leave Church or War Memorial feeling less gloomy. It is actually an essential part of being a Christian, for Jesus himself said:

“Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God” - Matthew 5.9

Those of us who are Christians boldly claim to be adopted children of God through our trust in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Yet to paraphrase the Apostle James, faith that is not lived out is not faith at all. We who trust in Jesus can rightly claim to be children of God, but as God’s children we are commissioned to be peacemakers. Peacemakers who build peace in our homes and workplaces, in our school and our communities, in our county, country and the wider world. Wherever we can and with whomever we can, we the children of God, are called to be peacemakers who build peace.

It is not easy to be a peacemaker, but God himself has promised to equip and empower us for all that he has called us to by the Holy Spirit. If you really want to live out your call as a child of God to be a peacemaker then I encourage you to pray this simple prayer each day:

“Father God please make me a peacemaker this day. Amen”

It’s not complicated, but God will here the cry of your heart and equip you to be one of the peacemaking children of God that we are all called to be and, by next Remembrance Sunday you will be able to look back on a year of peacebuilding near and far.

Rev Nick McKee
Director of Vocations

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