

## In remembrance of me

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Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son was revealed  
to destroy the works of the devil  
and to make us children of God and heirs of eternal life:  
grant that we, having this hope,  
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;  
that when he shall appear in power and great glory  
we may be made like him  
in his eternal and glorious kingdom.

Our text today forms part of the prayer of consecration at the Eucharist:

**'Do this in remembrance of me.'**

November is a month for remembering. Beginning with All Saints, closely followed by All Souls, then Remembrance Sunday, next week we will end the Christian year by remembering that Christ is King. But here in France, thankfully, we don't do Bonfire Night so we don't have to remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of November, Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. So this morning, instead of looking at the theme of the Second Coming graphically described in the gospel passage we've just heard from Luke, succinctly depicted in the opening verses of Malachi chapter 4 and briefly hinted at in the Psalm 96, I'd like to turn our attention to a phrase in the Eucharist which I must have repeated hundreds of times as a priest:

**‘Do this in remembrance of me.’**

What does the word remember mean to you ? To recall ? To bring to mind ? To have a memory of someone, something, somewhere, sometime ? Our ability to remember and our memories are part of what it means for us to be individuals. The memories we cherish of what we’ve done and what has been done to us has shaped us as the people we now are. One terrible consequence of Alzheimers and old age is the loss of those memories and, as a result, we become thinner as people.

I guess remember can best be defined as ‘not to forget’. But what is it in the Eucharist that we are not to forget ? It is the central thought that, in Jesus, God became a human being and that he died a painful death for us; that his blood was shed for us; that his body was broken for us. In the Eucharist, we are remembering with gratitude and thanksgiving his crucifixion. And we remember it in the context of the Last Supper, the Passover meal that Jesus celebrated with his disciples on the night of his arrest. In sharing unleavened bread which he broke into pieces and gave to his friends; in sharing a cup of sweet red wine with his friends; he is giving us two very powerful symbols – bread and wine, food and life energy – both of which embody the sacrifice he was about to make. Now whether you understand that in the bread and wine Christ is symbolically present or that he is actually present, fact is that what we are doing is called Holy Communion and as such we are in communion, in contact with, connected to, the God we love and who loves us his children, in this instance shown by the fact that he is feeding us and energising us.

Each time we eat the bread and drink the wine we are remembering Christ. What he has done and the significance of what he done is being remembered afresh. It is not forgotten and nor are we for we are ever in the mind of God whether we are living now in this present time or whenever at some time in the future we die – underneath us are his everlasting arms.

So this November, let us remember what is worth remembering: what God has done for us in the person of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. May we always be mindful of his love for us and may we never forget that we are his children whom he feeds each time we meet him again in the eucharist in holy communion.

I have spoken in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
Amen.

*Preached at the Eucharist*

*St Bartholomew's, Dinard*

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G: Sermons 28 : in remembrance

