

This Month's Liturgy; November 2018

My first Parish Priest after Ordination was Father E.K.Taylor at Holy Family Parish in Southport. He had a particular fondness for the Memorial of Saint Martin of Tours which we keep, by date, on November 11th. As this date is a Sunday this year, the Saint's Memoria naturally gives way to the 'weekly Easter' which is the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection - but I think Father Taylor would still have managed to insert Martin's name into the Eucharistic Prayer that day!

We read in the Office or Readings for Saint Martin that, even in his advanced years (he was over 80 when he died), he undertook an arduous journey to part of his Diocese to bring resolution to a dispute which had arisen and in this way to cement unity amongst the people of his Diocese. Martin was a man of deep rooted charity (he is often depicted as a soldier on horseback cutting his cloak in half in order to share it with a poor man) and that charity extended not only to giving of himself and his own possessions for the good of others, but actively working to bring peace, understanding and reconciliation where there was unrest and uncertainty. This too is Charity and love of others – to bring peace into their lives.

On 11th November this year we will also keep the 100th anniversary of the cessation of hostilities at the end of the First World War – a conflict which sadly did not live up to its name as the 'war to end all wars'. To turn our minds to peace, to an end to that mistrust and fear which can so easily not only justify but also condone violence and hatred between communities, peoples and nations, this too is active charity and rightly deserves the Beatitude, **Blessed are the Peacemakers.**

At our celebration of Mass each day we pray;

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress.....

Amen to that.

Wishing you a Blessed November

Father Philip