

# ***November 2014***

November is always, for the Church, a time of remembrance. The month begins with those great commemorations of the Communion of Saints, All Saints and All Souls, when we firstly give thanks for the Saints in glory and then pray for the souls of all the faithful departed. The Communion of Saints reminds us that we are all, living and departed, one in the Resurrection of Christ and that we are all, at whatever stage of the Christian pilgrimage we find ourselves, bound together in a communion of prayer and love which knows no boundaries of time and space.

This year, of course, marking the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War in 1914, gives a special poignancy to our observance of Remembrance. ‘The war to end all wars’ proved how fragile the peace of the world is and we are still in many ways scarred by the appalling bloodshed, loss of life and callous inhumanity of the global conflicts of the twentieth century.

I hope that we remember that this is a centenary which should be observed not only now in 2014, but for four long years more, and that the lessons of that escalating conflict of 1914-18 may be taken to heart by today’s political leaders in what seems to be an increasingly uncertain and dangerous world. Human nature is always in need of redemption; we all stand under both the judgement and mercy of God.

**Fr Michael**