

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

This is a time of year when we remember those who have died. We remember those known to us at the Memorial Service. We remember Christians who have inspired us at All Saints. And we remember those who have died to protect our freedom on Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday.

Responding to death can be complicated. Sometimes, in the midst of sadness we can also have a sense of peace and calm. Other times, it's very very difficult and unsettling. There is no right or wrong way to feel.

When Jesus stood by with Lazarus' grieving sisters and their friends and wept with them, he entered into their grief. It was also sign, of him entering into our whole experience of grief. I would also add, this presence and sharing, is also in our fears and worries in general.

And there were no well intentioned platitudes. Just a quiet presence and a sharing in it.

He would go on to do something else with Lazarus. Another universal sign.

And so for the one who looks to Jesus, the grief is shared, the loss is shared, the fears are shared, the worries are shared, the peace is shared, the unsettling is shared, and hope is present.

And this hope, gives us, in our weakness, the strength and the courage, to carry on. To perhaps face up to the darkness around us. And then, to engage it.

BIBLE VERSES:

32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 34 "Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied.

35 Jesus wept.

- John 11:32-35

You can read the whole encounter [here.](#)