



**A Blessing of Sacred Remains**

**23 April 2026**

**CWGC Guards' Cemetery, Lesbosufs, France**

**Conducted by**

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Chaplain to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment**

## **Introduction**

Dear friends, we gather today in solemn respect to honour these saint and sacred remains.

Though little has been recovered, the life to which they belonged is fully known to God;

each thought, each joy, each burden carried, each act of courage. We stand here to commend this person to God's eternal care, and to mark this ground as a place of dignity, remembrance, and peace.

Let us pray.

God of mercy and compassion,  
you hold all life in your hands.

Be present with us as we commend these remains to your safe-keeping.

Though the fragment is small, your knowledge is great;  
though the earth receives but little, your love embraces the whole.

Grant rest to the one we honour,  
and grant us grace to walk in hope.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* Amen.

## **Reading – Revelation Chapter 21 v 1-7**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega – the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children."

### **Blessing of the Grave**

May this grave be blessed  
as a place of honour, memory, and quiet hope.  
May your light shine upon it,  
and may all who pass by recognise here  
the worth of a life known and loved by God.  
In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit,

All **Amen.**

### **Commendation and Comittal**

We now commend these remains to God  
and commit them to their resting place.

Lord of all compassion,  
into your tender keeping we commend these sacred and sacred  
remains.

Though life is left to see,  
you know the whole story of this life;  
every hope, every fear, every moment of courage.  
Grant eternal rest to the one whose body we now honour,  
and gather him into the fullness of your peace.  
Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust...

Most merciful and ever-living God,  
we remember those whom you have gathered

from the storm of war into the peace of your presence;  
surround in your love our comrades here,  
and may they rest in peace,  
now and forever more.

**All** Amen.

### **Moment of Silence**

We remember the life behind these remains,  
the story known fully only to God.

*A period of silence is kept.*

### **Prayers**

Let us pray:  
For the one we honour today,  
that they may rest in the peace of Christ.  
Lord, in your mercy:

**All** hear our prayer.

For all who mourn, whether long past or newly left,  
that God may comfort them,  
Lord, in your mercy:

**All** hear our prayer.

For all who labour to recover, identify, and dignify the fallen,  
that their work may be blessed,  
Lord, in your mercy:

**All** hear our prayer.

For ourselves,  
that we may seek peace, cherish life, and honour the dead,  
Lord, in your mercy:

**All** hear our prayer.

Gathering our thoughts and prayers together, we say:  
**All** Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil,  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

May Christ, the resurrection and the life,  
grant rest to the departed,  
hope to the living,  
and peace to all who stand in this place.  
And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**All** **Amen.**



The Ministry of Defence, through the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre, is responsible for the research, identification and burial of all British casualties worldwide.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for the graves, memorials, records and memory of the 1.7 million Commonwealth servicemen and women who died during the two World Wars.

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