

Reflections for Sunday's Readings on 20 June 2021



Gospel – Mark 4:35-41

³⁵ On that day, as evening drew on, Jesus said to his disciples: “Let us cross to the other side.”

³⁶ Leaving the crowd, they took Jesus with them in the boat just as he was. And other boats were with him.

³⁷ A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up.

³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”

³⁹ He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Quiet! Be still!” The wind ceased and there was great calm.

⁴⁰ Then he asked them, “Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?”

⁴¹ They were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?”

We began by discussing the use of the repeated imagery of the sea in the readings but what stood out was the need for calm. It was noteworthy that even in the boat during a storm Jesus managed to sleep as if He had a tranquillity beyond understanding. There is also something very human in the way the Gospel talks of how Jesus simply goes to sleep.

We went on to think about the instructions that God gave to the sea to “come thus far and no further” as if there is a limit on how far the turbulence of the sea might go. We can have storms in our lives, just like the sea, but, just as much, we can have peace and quiet.

We spoke about, when there are storms, we can feel we are drowning or adrift but really we are in a state, that, if we can do something about the stormy times, do it, but if we can't, then there is nothing we can do, so we have no need to stress. God is with us.

We spoke of how the disciples questioned who Jesus was when He could calm nature and we need to ask ourselves who do we really think He is and we need to have more faith in Him and what He can do.

There can be feelings of turmoil in our lives and even the apostles actually questioned whether Jesus cared or not about what they were suffering. We have to trust that He is there and what He can do; we need to have faith.

We spoke of both the humanity of Jesus as He relaxes but also His power as the son of God. The power of God is reflected in the power of the waves which is talked about in the Psalm and there is something in the sea which is all powerful and is almost a mirror of the power of God.

Jesus asks why the apostles are terrified and accuses them of having no faith and how often are we in the same situation? We become frightened but we need to have more faith; we are not alone and God does look after us.