



19th Sunday Ord. Time Yr A

Lectio Divina

Lectio: Our text comes immediately after the feeding of the 5000. What will be the reaction of the disciples and the people? The people had come with the seeds of faith but with an overriding concern to be free of the oppression of the Roman authorities. Jesus is not a political liberator but the Saviour from the power of evil. So Jesus immediately dispatches the disciples in a boat. They too desired political liberation and could have been a focus for the people for this misunderstanding of Jesus' role to take hold. Then Jesus, at last, after sending the people away, takes some time by himself to pray in the hills (i.e. to mourn his cousin John the Baptist's death). Jesus is at pains to help the disciples to discover the liberating power of faith in Him. While in the boat the disciples were safe. The sea for them was most dangerous, the very cauldron of evil. Would their superstitions overwhelm their emerging faith in Jesus? The disciples were to be leaders of faith in Jesus, how could they be convinced of the true nature of Jesus? If we are to have faith **IN** Jesus we must be convinced that Jesus **IS** the Son of God.

Read: **Matthew 14: 22 - 33**

Meditatio: Do I make an act of faith each time I share in Holy Communion? 'Jesus made the disciples go away'; have I experienced times when I had to 'leave things to Jesus'? Do I act on the 'spur of the moment' i.e. reacting without reflecting? What are my overriding concerns? Is what I want, what Jesus wants of me? Do I take time to mourn; or think it is a waste of time? Do I find prayer alone ('in the hills') a useful form of prayer? Is reflecting on my life part of my prayer? Have I superstitions about evil in regards to places or situations? When have I felt fearful because of storms or situations beyond my control? Do I have faith enough to face any challenging situation because Jesus is with me? Is Jesus saying to me, "Come", I'll be with you (through this Pandemic)? What fears do I need to face? Is Jesus real to me i.e. not a 'ghost'? Have I ever cried out: "Lord! Save me!"? Do I want to 'get out of the boat' (i.e. leave my securities) and go to/trust in Jesus? Jesus said: "Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid." – does my faith give me courage in times of trial or fright? What situations have tested my faith? Do I think 'sainthood' is not for me, I leave that to courageous/holy people? Do I have doubts in my faith? Can I believe that Jesus is 'in my boat'; he is truly the Son of God? Have I a personal relationship with God in Jesus? Is my image of God personal?

Oratio: Pray that the Eucharist will always be celebrated as a Sacrament of faith. Pray for reflection of life as part of daily prayer. Pray for those who act without thinking. Pray for priests that they will be people of prayer. Pray that we all will make time for prayer daily. Pray for those who mourn. Pray for those who have lost loved ones suddenly especially through COVID-19. Pray for the safety for seafarers. Pray for those caught up in natural disasters. Pray for all of us living through this time of Pandemic. Pray for those whose lives are mixed up with superstitions. Pray for courage when one's faith is tested. Pray for trust in Jesus. Pray that we will follow Jesus who is saying to us as to Peter: "Come!". Pray for a clear understanding of who Jesus is – he is truly the Son of God. Pray for a deepening and personal relationship with Jesus.

Contemplatio – Dwell in stillness, simply aware of the boundless expanse of mercy that surrounds you.

After your prayer – Take time ('in the hills' or in your garden) to reflect on the importance of faith.

✍ Fr Joe

Matthew 14: 22 - 33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray.

When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind.

In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.'

It was Peter who answered. 'Lord', he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?'

And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'