



Imagine the disciples' panic. They are in the boat all by themselves when a storm begins to rage. It's so bad the boat is in danger of sinking. They are full of fear. All seems lost... and then they see Jesus walking towards them, on the water.

Eager as ever, Peter asks Jesus if he, too, can walk on the water, and Jesus invites him to come to him. Peter climbs out of the boat, but the wind rises, and he begins to sink. Even Peter, the most important figure in the early Church, has a faith that falters in the midst of the storm.

Jesus saves him, and castigates him for his weak faith. As soon as they are back in the boat, the storm eases, the winds calm, and the awestruck disciples acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God.

The message is clear: the boat represents the Church, and the disciples represent all believers, while the storm represents the difficulties and doubts the Church is facing. The boat will face many storms, but if the disciples make sure to recognise Jesus and trust in him, they will always be safe. Trust in God and an adventurous faith have the power to overcome doubting fear. ■

REFLECT

One of the classic songs of the last half-century is "Bridge over Troubled Water". At the time he wrote it, Paul Simon was influenced by Gospel music, and this influence comes across in the chorus of the song:

"When you're weary, feeling small
When tears are in your eyes
I will dry them all
I'm on your side
Oh, when times get rough
And friends just can't be found
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down..."

The words speak of offering comfort, solace, help, refuge. It is the assurance Jesus offers his frightened followers in today's Gospel.

It's what he offers us in our distress and at all times. Jesus is our bridge over troubled water. It's easy to trust in Jesus when life is good and all is plain sailing. Like Peter, we can even begin to think we can walk on water. Nothing can sink us.

Then, suddenly or over time, the skies darken and storm winds blow in. Maybe a relationship crumbles or our health fails, or financial woes overwhelm us, or scandal envelops us, and, like Peter, we flounder. We begin to sink. Our faith is tested. We feel lost and frightened and afraid. But we are not alone. Jesus is with us in every storm in which we find ourselves. He never abandons us. Trust in him, call out to him, as Peter does, and we will be safe. ■

SAY

"Lord, I believe;
help my unbelief."

DO

As Christians, we know that Jesus is with us in the midst of any storm in which we find ourselves. But he is more than with us; he calls on us to face that storm. To have courage. To trust. To be not afraid. Think of the challenges and difficulties you and your loved ones are facing at this time. Ask the Lord's help in facing them.



PRAY

Pray for those who feel as if they are caught in a storm – those who are ill, or depressed, or suicidal, or bullied, or suffer from discrimination or intimidation – that they may experience Jesus's soothing, calming, saving presence with them.

LEARN

God is with us always, in good times and bad.

It is okay to experience doubts and difficulties so long as we continue to trust in God.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Look to your covenant, O Lord,
and forget not the life of your poor ones for
ever.

Arise, O God, and defend your cause,
and forget not the cries of those who seek
you.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
whom, taught by the Holy Spirit,
we dare to call our Father,
bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts
the spirit of adoption as your sons and
daughters,
that we may merit to enter into the
inheritance
which you have promised.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING 1 Kings 19:9.11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings.
When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain
of God, he went into the cave and spent the
night in it. Then he was told, "Go out and
stand on the mountain before the Lord."
Then the Lord himself went by. There came a
mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains
and shattered the rocks before the Lord.
But the Lord was not in the wind. After the
wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was
not in the earthquake. After the earthquake
came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire.
And after the fire there came the sound of a
gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he
covered his face with his cloak and went out
and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 84:9-14

Response:
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

SECOND READING Romans 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans.

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it
in union with Christ – it is the truth – my
conscience in union with the Holy Spirit
assures me of it too. What I want to say
is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental
anguish so endless, I would willingly be
condemned and be cut off from Christ if it
could help my brothers of Israel, my own
flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons,
they were given the glory and the covenants;
the Law and the ritual were drawn up for
them, and the promises were made to them.
They are descended from the patriarchs and
from their flesh and blood came Christ who is
above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. alleluia!
Blessings on the King who comes,
in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest
heavens!
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 14:22-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

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 headwind. 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(all bow during the next three lines)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, to accept the offerings of
your Church,
for in your mercy you have given them to be
offered
and by your power you transform them
into the mystery of our salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord,
who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

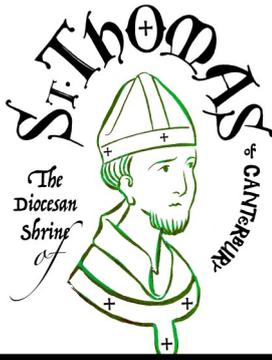
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the communion in your Sacrament
that we have consumed, save us, O Lord,
and confirm us in the light of your truth.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

"True, God is infinite majesty, but he is also
infinite goodness and infinite love. There
can be no greater Lord than God; neither can
there be a more ardent lover than he".

St Alphonsus Liguori

NEWSLETTER



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HJ

Telephone: 01227 462896 Email: canterbury@rcaos.org.uk

Web Site: www.stthomasofcanterbury.com St Thomas of Canterbury

Parish Priest: Canon Anthony Charlton email: anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr Sylvester Adeniyi CSSp Parish Administrator: Miss Linda Scott

St Thomas' Shop (01227 462896): TEMPORARILY CLOSED

University of Kent Chaplaincy: Fr Tom Herbst (01843 230 774) email: tjherbst@gmail.com

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: Head Teacher: Miss Lisa D'Agostini (01227 462539)

St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Exec Prin Mr M Walters; Academy Prin: Mr J Rowarth (01227 826200)

The Parish Office is reopened on a part time basis. Linda is in the office Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays between 09h30 and 15h30

PARISH MATTERS

FR SYLVESTER'S FARM

Last week I let you know that Fr Sylvester is leaving us at the end of August to go to Thornton Heath Parish near Croydon. To show our appreciation of the 2 years he has spent with us, we are organising a collection which Fr Sylvester would like to go towards his Farm project in Nigeria. If you wish to donate and write a **cheque please make it payable to Fr Ibitoye Sylvester Adeniyi**. Any donations made directly to our parish bank account should clearly be marked "Fr Sylvester's Farm" please. There will be a special red bucket collection for Fr Sylvester after all Masses this weekend for cash collections.

A bit about the farm...

In 2015, a sizeable portion of land was given to Father Sylvester by the community of the Irawo people, in appreciation of the successful completion of other projects, most notable of which was the building of a bridge across a large river to ensure accessibility, even during the long months of monsoon rains, thus removing the many difficult and sometimes dangerous complications caused by living in a very isolated area. The Spiritans Springs site is rich agricultural and forested land, boasting not only a river but also beautiful lakes that are well-stocked with fish and approximately 2km from Oke-n-la. Such diverse habitats require careful stewardship: this is both a responsibility and a joy. Spiritans Springs is a community whose mission it is to provide for the welfare of every person we can reach. They do this through the creation of an enabling environment to support the spiritual, physical and practical needs of all. Their holistic approach in addressing the well-being of others allows them to nurture the healthy growth of each person. They know we have received the Divine Mercy as a gift. Jesus is that gift: the son of God who died on the cross that we might have everlasting life. In His name, we welcome all to share the gift of Divine Mercy by caring for His children and creation.

To find out more, Fr Sylvester has a website on the project which can be seen here: www.spiritans-springs.com.

Thank you.

Fr Anthony.

6.30pm (Vigil): Carol & Lucy Lloyd-Price - speedy recovery (*Scott Family*)

Sunday 9th August:

19th Sunday in Ordinary Times (A)

Mt 14:22-331

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: David McDonald RIP

11.00am: Hannalore Hall RIP (A. Nichols)

12.15: Baptism of River Michael John Gilmurray

6.00pm: The Eternal Father of All Mankind
(*C. Silcock-Stone*)

ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED

Monday 10th August: St Lawrence *Jn 12: 24-26*

12 noon: Tony Curtis - RIP

Tuesday 11th Aug: St Clare *Mt 18:1-5;10; 12-14*

12 noon: Welfare of Andy Connors

Wednesday 12th August:

St Jane Frances de Chantal *Mt 18: 15-20*

12 noon: Ron and Daphne Acari (*Connolly Family*)

Thursday 13th August: Sts Pontian, Pope & Hippolytus, Priest

Mt 18:21-19:1

11.00am Funeral Service of the late Joseph McKee at Canterbury Cemetery

12 noon: Charles Bishop – RIP (*Simon & Mary Brown*)

Friday 14th August: St Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Priest & Martyr

Mt 19:3-12

12 noon: Bernie Fisher – RIP (*A Nichols*)

Saturday 15th Aug: Our Lady *Mt 19: 13-15*

10.30am—11.30am: Reconciliation (Confession)

12 noon: Mary Dittrich 100th Birthday (*R Johnson*)

6.30pm (Vigil): Anne Silcock on her birthday (*C Stone*)

Sunday 16th August:

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Lk 1: 39-56

8.00am: Welfare of Barry McCorkell

9.30am: Intentions of Richard Caraccio

11.00am: Catherine (Kath) Packer - RIP

12.00: Baptism of Anna Sofia Bolivar Vincent

6.00pm: Joe McKee—RIP (*Levey Family*)

From Fr Anthony ...

This Sunday we are presented with two of my favourite but challenging passages of Scripture. In the Gospel of Matthew while Jesus is praying, having sent the crowds away, the disciples are on boat, far out in the lake battling with a heavy sea. He comes to them walking on the water.

In the First reading from the first book of kings, Elijah, fleeing from the wrath of King Arab and Queen Jezebel, after defeating the prophets of Baal, hides in a cave on Mount Horeb. He complains that he is the only one left to do God's work and his mission is doomed to failure. God tells him to go outside to await an encounter with God. There is a mighty wind, an earthquake and fire but God is in none of these, the Lord comes instead in a gentle breeze. When Elijah heard this gentle wind, he covered his face with his cloak to encounter God.

We learn from the encounter that Elijah experiences, that God doesn't always show himself in the way that we expect. Yes, "God is Lord of the wind and fire and power but God is also the Lord of the fearful, the discouraged, the threatened and he extends himself to them in ways that are appropriate to their fragility and vulnerability. "

The disciples battling the storm are fragile and vulnerable. Although they are frightened at the sight of Jesus coming on the water. Jesus says, "Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid." Peter in his eagerness says, "if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water..." Jesus says: "Come". As long as Peter's gaze is fixed on Jesus he is walking on the water. But he then his attention is on the force of the wind and the sea beneath him and he begins to sink. As he shouts out, "Save me!" Jesus puts out his hand and held him. When they both got into the boat the wind dropped. Jesus brings peace and calm to the chaos. Elijah in the midst of his stormy life and his fear, encounters the peaceful presence of God in the gentle breeze.

Like Peter, in the midst of our anxiety about what is happening in our world because of the effects of Covid-19, need to keep our eyes fixed on Christ. This is the way that we get through the stormy times we live in. What does this mean.? To keep Christ at the centre of our lives. To deepen and strengthen that relationship by our prayer and remind ourselves that he is in our midst. With Elijah God was in the gentle breeze. Find moments of quiet and in the silence you create let God show himself to you. He reaches out to us and holds us. Lord deepen, increase and strengthen my faith.

CHURCH OPENING VOLUNTEERS

Since permission was given to open the churches for private prayer, we have had a dedicated team of volunteers who open the church, assist visitors and clean and sanitise the interior of the church between visits. This has allowed many of us to be near the Lord in Adoration and enjoy quiet, prayerful reflection whilst still being kept safe. Many of these volunteers are now returning to work so we are seeking more volunteers to help us keep the church open. If you can help, please contact Linda in the office on 01227 462896 or via email Canterbury@rcaos.org.uk We would like to say a big Thank you to all those who have offered their time and talents to this unexpected ministry.

Church opening times for private prayer are:

Monday to Saturday: 10.30 to end of 12 noon Mass
Monday to Saturday: 14h40 to 16h30
Friday evening: 18h00 to 20h00 (with First Friday Mass only)
Sunday: 16h30 to end of 18h00 Mass

OFFERINGS FOR MASSES...if you are donating directly into the Parish Bank account for a Mass you have asked for can you PLEASE let the Parish Office know (an email will do) that you have done this. It helps with the finance records. Thank you!

FACE COVERINGS IN CHURCH: From this Saturday, 8th August, the use of face coverings in public buildings will become mandatory for everyone (unless exempt). Parishioners will need to wear a face covering during Mass, including approaching the altar for communion. Please remember communion can only be received in the hand at this time and to keep a safe following distance.

Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Pat Gill, Angeline Frizell, Alan Skeet, Louisa Ward, Janette Hughes, Maurice Crosland, Barbara Brett, Mary Dittrich, Pat Gibson, Jenni Aldridge, Mary Reynolds, Brian Wicker, Joan Sutton, Audrey Martin, Elizabeth Gilhenny, Bill Parker, Lucy Purbrick and Josie Carr.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of: Maria Bryant, Pamela Dodds, Roberto de Paco, John Todd, Carol Mary Kidby, Anna Hesketh, Tom Hodges, Rebecca Judge, Gertraude Katherine Brock, Vera Fletcher, Maria Daniels, Maria Prado, Hannelore Hall, Bernie Fisher, Joseph McKee and Tony Kenny.

Please pray for those whose first anniversaries are this month: Gillian Dyche

THANK YOU to everyone who continues to send in their Mass donations, weekly collections and other very generous payments to the parish funds. Thank you too for all the generous donations to our SVP and to CAFOD. Please be assured they are being passed to the right people.