

Readings Job 3: 1, 8-11; 2 Corinthians 5: 14-17; Mark 4:35-41



Fr Michael says:

Storm on the Lake

The storm on the lake has many implications for us: we are on the boat, which is the Church, journeying to the Kingdom; the storm is the buffetings which occur in that time and in the responses of the apostles the reactions which we are experiencing too as we are there as well! We have had Jesus' teaching and now we are sharing in the signs which Jesus worked as affirmation and encouragement to us to continue with trust and confidence in Him! Such a miracle is indeed the power of God at work in the world and was seen as such by those who heard the story, as Job underlines in the first Reading. Paul's message is for us to draw strength from his statement about Jesus showing His love for us through His sufferings and death and his call for us to imitate it.

When everything is going well it is easy to have faith, our real test comes with challenges! How strong is our trust in God? Does it exist even?? We must realise that they are part of life and it is not a sign of God's failing to love us – the storm struck even though Jesus was in the boat. The apostles' fear is nevertheless also a call to God to respond (we would be literally in the same boat!!) Our faith may be little, but then it does not have to be perfect, a little will go a long way! As Ghandi has said so well: "A person with a grain of faith in God never loses hope, because he ever believes in the ultimate triumph of truth."

A sea captain retired to the Shetlands and started to skipper boats for holyday makers. One trip he made with a lot of young people and they laughed at him when he suggested that they said a prayer before setting out, even though all seemed well. As in the Gospel story, a sudden storm struck and the boat was pitching violently and the youngsters turned to the skipper to lead them in prayer, but he replied: "I pray when it is calm. When it's rough I attend to my ship." So if we do not seek out God when we are in the calm moments of our lives, we are not likely to find Him in the rough! Panic sets in! If we have anchored ourselves with God when we can, then all will be well

We are not on a solo voyage, but travel with others and we can support each other when things are difficult. We might make our own the prayer of a Breton sailor: "Lord, my boat is small, the ocean is great!" Everything is there!