What Walking on Water Looks Like

What does walking on water look like?

I want to tell you a story about Dennis.

There was a time when I wanted to invite Dennis to Alpha. And apparently, whenever Dennis saw me after Mass, he became very good at avoiding me!

So let me ask you, Dennis:

1. Why were you avoiding me? And what eventually made you say yes to Alpha?

[Dennis answers]

And then something happened on Alpha. Dennis encountered Jesus in a new way. His life was changed. And that encounter didn't make him want simply to receive more from the Church. It made him want to serve—to express and share with others the love of God that he had experienced.

So, Dennis:

2. What happened for you on Alpha, and how did it change the way you lived your faith and served here in the parish?

[Dennis answers]

And that brings us to some really exciting news.

For some time, I've felt that our growing parish needs someone whose particular job is to help raise up more people. We cannot become a missionary parish by asking the same people to do more and more.

We have secured significant grant funding for a new **Way of Life Coordinator**, and when the Parish Leadership Team said, "Why not Dennis?", I thought, "Yes. Of course."

Dennis is already doing much of this as a volunteer. Now we're asking him to do it full-time.

But this is also a huge step of faith.

Dennis, how does it feel to be stepping out of the boat?

[Dennis answers]

And that's what I want us to understand.

We're not celebrating that we've got another person to do the work for us. Dennis isn't here to do everything.

His job is to **inspire, identify and invite**. To raise up leaders. To build teams. To help more of us discover that Jesus is calling us to serve.

Dennis isn't going to walk on water for us.

He's going to help us learn what walking on water looks like in 21st-century Kensal New Town.

And perhaps some of you will be invited to step out of the boat.

You may feel unqualified. You may feel afraid.

Jesus doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies the called.

So step out of the boat.

Notice the fear.

But keep your eyes on Jesus.

Lord Jesus, give us the courage to step out of the boat, the faith to keep our eyes on you, and the grace to help others do the same. Amen.