

RESURRECTION GOSPEL

We cannot raise ourselves from the dead. We have to rely on Jesus for our Resurrection. To walk on water is to defy and conquer the laws and forces of nature. In the same way, to rise from the dead is a miracle that also defies and conquers the laws of earthly nature, but not the Laws of divine nature. In today's Gospel (Matt 14:22-33), Jesus' victory over water represents His Victory over Death. The image of the boat portrays the Church with the disciples and us on board. It moves through stormy waters like the Church moves through stormy times. The strong winds and high waves, that *battle* the boat, represent Satan's evil mission to try and destroy us and the Church. It was *the fourth watch of the night*, the darkest time (3am). Satan's dark mission is to instil fear and doubt into the members of the Church. The Devil wishes to remove our faith and all our trust in Jesus. Peter initially trusted and relied on Jesus' Call or invitation to come to Him. By God's Power, he began walking on the water. But the wind strengthened, meaning that Satan increased his presence of fear in Peter, and he began to sink, because of his lack of trust in Jesus. Jesus invites many people to Himself, but through lack of faith, they never reach Him and sink into the ways of the world.

GENTLE BREEZE LIKE A GENTLE CALL

In the First Reading (1 Kings 19:9,11-13), God revealed Himself in a *gentle breeze*. He does not impose Himself but gently calls us. It is our choice whether to accept eternal life or reject it. Peter's faith in Jesus was not completely lost, because when he began to sink, he realised he needed Jesus to save him, and cried out; *Lord! Save me!* Jesus put out His hand at once and held him, saying; *Man of little faith why did you doubt?* When our faith encounters times of turmoil or doubt, and we find ourselves sinking into the muddy waters of sin, know that Jesus is waiting for us, with outstretched hand, in the Sacrament of Confession. When asked, He pulls us out of the muddy waters of sin and saves us, restoring our faith in every confession.

WALK WITH PURITY OF HEART

Note how Jesus was not in the boat, but outside in the hostile environment. Jesus is asking us to have the *courage and not be afraid* to get out of the boat of our comfort zones and evangelise in the rough seas of society. Just as the Spirit of God hovered over the waters to bring the beginning of Creation (Genesis 1:2), so now, Jesus hovers over the waters, bringing us a New Creation of Eternal Life in the New Covenant. Jesus sent the disciples out in the boat while he went up the mountain to pray. He is letting us know that He is always praying and watching out for us from on high. He is not asking us to walk on water, but to walk with purity of heart and trust in Him. God bless, Fr. Brendan.