

## Thought for Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August

Ninth Sunday after Trinity; Matthew 14: 22–33

### Jesus walks on water

It may not be immediately apparent, but at the beginning of this story, Jesus is tired. Well, wouldn't you be too if you had just given dinner to five thousand people? He sends everybody away including his disciples, then he goes into the hills to spend time alone with his Father.



These past few months have been tiring for many of us. Sometimes we have needed to retreat into a quiet place (not always easy in lockdown!) and spend time with God our Father.

The disciples without Jesus are not in a good place. Out there on the lake, battered by waves, the wind tossing them about, they would surely have been frightened. They may have been experienced sailors but that experience alone would have been enough to tell them just how dangerous storms could be – I am sure they had all known fishermen who had drowned. So when they see something extraordinary, Jesus walking towards them on the waves, they are terrified. They wonder, is this a ghost? Are we dead?

But once he recognizes Jesus, Peter (impetuous as ever) leaps out of the boat to walk towards him. With faith, all things are possible.

Except they are not. Doubts and fears overwhelm Peter just as soon as he realises what he has done. He starts to sink. “Lord, save me” he cries.

Sometimes we start something new, something that we think God wants us to do, something that we feel may bring us closer to Jesus, but then our fears rise up. We panic and find ourselves sinking.

But the Lord is there for us. He will reach out to us when we call his name and save us when we need him to. We do not need to be afraid.

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