

## REFLECTION FOR 12<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

**Job 38:1,8-11 2 Cor 5:14-17 Mk 4:35-41**

The role of God in calming the storms of life both in the history of the Church and in the lives of Christians is the central theme of the readings.

In life we often are crossing rough and windy waters. Today, the rough and windy times are COVID-19 and its impact on our lives.

Life is unpredictable and at times things happen to us without any warning. I think the whole world was caught in the storm of coronavirus pandemic off guard.

Think about the disciples. When they left the shore that evening, everything was fine. Then the great windstorm came . . . caught them off guard . . . and it did not take too long for the boat to be almost swamped . . . they did not see it coming.

It is easy to recognise ourselves in this story. What is harder to understand is Jesus' attitude. While his disciples were quite naturally alarmed and desperate, Jesus was asleep. This is the only time in the Gospels we see Jesus sleeping. The disciples said to him, "Master, do you not care? We are going down!" And Jesus woke up and spoke just a few words to the sea, 'Quiet now! Be calm!' And the wind dropped, and all was calm again.

Everyone has worries – sickness, finance, joblessness, family crisis, broken relationships or when we sit by helplessly watching the sufferings of a loved one. We often feel like crying out to Jesus as the apostles did: "Lord, don't you care about us? At such moments may we hear the gentle words of Jesus: "Why are you so afraid? Are you lacking in faith?" 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. 'Quiet now! Be calm!

There comes a time when we do not know what to do; when we stand at some cross-roads in life and do not know which way to take. At such times, it is understandable if we get scared or feel afraid. If we never felt ourselves going under, then we would never know the rescuing power of God. It's in our weak moments that we experience the strength of God.

So instead of worrying about what to do or trying to fix everything on our own, it is a marvellously liberating - to let go, and to let God.

The chief enemy of peace is worry- worry for ourselves, worry about the unknown future, worry about those we love. God's grace upholds us when things are too much for us. God gives us peace in the storm of anxiety.

When we are questioning and struggling with God . . . we are experiencing our faith in action. Doubt is an essential ingredient of faith . . . it is a healthy sign that we are taking our relationship with God seriously . . . allowing ourselves to be honest . . . a willingness to doubt our doubts, allowing doubt to propel us to a richer and a more robust faith . . . knowing Jesus is always at our side.

Faith reaches its height in the midst of doubt and the unknown. Faith doesn't save us from trials and tribulations. What it does is give us strength to face them. It's not we who keep the faith. It's the faith that keeps us.

A person with a grain of faith in God never loses hope. Do not be afraid. Let us hand over our fears and worries to God so that God can conquer them. Because this is God's strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us. God will bring calm and peace into our storms, because with God life never dies. This too shall pass, and life will be blessed again.

HAPPY FATHERS DAY

**Joke:** A little girl was asked to define Father's Day. The little girl said, well it is like Mother's Day only that you don't have to spend much on the present you give.

We pray for all fathers that they may lead their families with great wisdom, gentleness, tenderness, love, and goodness, and become good role models that their children can always look up to.

Fr Patrick