ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**The Lord is the strength of his people,
a saving refuge for the one he has anointed.
Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage,
and govern them for ever.**

GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.**

**We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

COLLECT

Grant, O Lord,
that we may always revere and love your holy name,
for you never deprive of your guidance
those you set firm on the foundation of your love.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING — Job 38:1. 8-11

A reading from the book of Job.

From the heart of the tempest the Lord gave Job his answer. He said:

Who pent up the sea behind closed doors
when it leapt tumultuous out of the womb,
then I wrapped it in a robe of mist
and made black clouds its swaddling bands;
when I marked the bounds it was not to cross
and made it fast with a bolted gate?
Come thus far, I said, and no farther:
here your proud waves shall break.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM — Psalm 106

Response:
**O give thanks to the Lord,
for his love endures for ever.**
or
Alleluia!

1. Some sailed to the sea in ships
to trade on the mighty waters.
These men have seen the Lord's deeds,
the wonders he does in the deep. **(R.)**

2. For he spoke; he summoned the gale,
tossing the waves of the sea
up to heaven and back into the deep;
their soul melted away in their distress. **(R.)**

3. Then they cried to the Lord in their need
and he rescued them from their distress.
He stilled the storm to a whisper:
all the waves of the sea were hushed. **(R.)**

4. They rejoiced because of the calm
and he led them to the haven they desired.
Let them thank the Lord for his love,
the wonders he does for men. **(R.)**

SECOND READING — 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

The love of Christ overwhelms us when we reflect that if one man has died for all, then all men should be dead; and the reason he died for all was so that living men should live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised to life for them.

From now onwards, therefore, we do not judge anyone by the standards of the flesh. Even if we did once know Christ in the flesh, that is not how we know him now. And for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL — Mark 4:35-41

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

With the coming of evening, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us cross over to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind they took him, just as he was, in the boat; and there were other boats with him. Then it began to blow a gale and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was almost swamped. But he was in the stern, his head on the cushion, asleep. They woke him and said to him, "Master, do you not care? We are going down!" And he woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Quiet now! Be calm!" And the wind dropped, and all was calm again. Then he said to them, "Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?" They were filled with awe and said to one another, "Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**

(all bow during the next three lines)

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and praise
and grant that, cleansed by its action,
we may make offering of a heart pleasing to you.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**The eyes of all look to you, Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed and nourished
by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your Son,
we ask of your mercy, O Lord,
that what we celebrate with constant devotion
may be our sure pledge of redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

You say grace before meals. All right. But I say grace before the concert and the opera, and grace before the play and pantomime, and grace before I open a book, and grace before sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing, walking, playing, dancing and grace before I dip the pen in the ink.

GK Chesterton

redemptorist publications

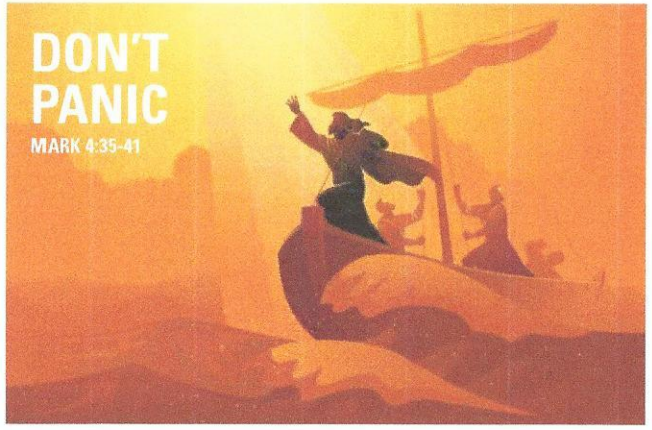
Concordat cum originali: + Eamon Martin Archbishop of Armagh. Commentary by Fr Gerry Moloney CSsR. The English translation of the entrance and communion antiphons, the opening prayers, prayers over the gifts, gloria, creed, and prayers after communion from The Roman Missal, © 2010 International Commission of English in the Liturgy Corporation. Jerusalem Bible version of the scriptures copyright: Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd., and Doubleday & Co. Inc. Responsorial psalms are copyright The Grail and/or Geoffrey Chapman Ltd. Published in Ireland by Redemptorist Communications (www.redcoms.org); Published in the UK by Redemptorist Publications (www.rpbooks.co.uk)

Sunday Message

20 JUNE 2021 | 12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • Psalter Week 4



Imagine the disciples' panic. There they are in the boat when a storm begins to rage. It's so bad the boat is in danger of sinking, and they are full of fear. All seems lost…

Meanwhile Jesus, there in the boat with them, is fast asleep. Mark gives us the little detail that "his head [was] on the cushion" – it almost seems like a personal reminiscence. In their fear and panic, the disciples wake him up: "Master, do you not care? We are going down!"

When Jesus wakes, first of all he tells the wind and the sea to "Be calm!" Immediately the wind drops and the waves become calm. Then he rebukes the disciples for their lack of faith. They are amazed. "Who can this be?" they ask each other.

For us, the message is clear: the boat represents the Church, and the disciples represent all believers, while the storm represents the difficulties and doubts the Church is facing. Only when they let go of fear and trust in him do the disciples recognise who Jesus truly is and his power to save them. Trust in Jesus can overcome all our fears. ■

REFLECT

Almost 33 years ago I began my career as a Redemptorist parish missioner. I gave missions throughout Ulster and north Leinster, and spoke from a lot of pulpits. I loved it. Churches were full, people were enthusiastic, the buzz was wonderful. In my sermons I lauded people for their centuries-long fidelity to the Church and encouraged them to do even better. While vocations and church attendance were beginning to fall, the future seemed bright. All appeared tranquil, at least on the surface. I had no idea of the violent storms that lay just ahead.

Then, suddenly, in the space of a few years, scandals and crises began to engulf the Church and it found itself in the eye of a terrible unrelenting storm, waves crashing against it from every side. Revelations of sex abuse and other scandals shook people to the core. Catholics began to abandon the practice of the faith, while an aggressive secularism found new strength.

Preaching parish missions became more challenging. I had to rewrite my sermons. I felt seasick.

But the storm had been brewing for a long time. The Church had big problems long before the abuse scandals came along. It was too priest-centred and clerical. It failed to make use of the talents of lay people. It didn't encourage an adult faith. It allowed a whole generation of young people to be lost. It was too complacent, too casual, too smug, rather like the crew of the *Titanic* on its maiden voyage. And so it was left shocked and stricken by the storm when it broke, just like the apostles in today's Gospel.

Jesus challenges us to face today's storms head-on, to place our faith and trust in him, knowing that with him we will be safe, but without him all will be lost. ■

DO

All kinds of storms can upset the equilibrium of our lives. Think about how you cope with major crises or setbacks. Do you deal with them constructively? Is there somebody you can turn to for support? Do you know anybody who might need your support right now?

SAY

"Lord, help us to trust in you. Strengthen our faith so that we can speak your truth without fear. Amen."

PRAY

Pray for the Pope and for all in authority in the Church. Ask the Holy Spirit to help them steer the Church with confidence and courage through the many storms it encounters.

LEARN

As Christians, we know that Jesus is with us in the midst of the storms in which we find ourselves. But he is more than with us; he calls on us to face those storms. What might facing the storms mean today? It means speaking truth to power in the Church and doing so in love. It means trusting totally in Jesus. It means letting go of fear. It means being ready to venture everything on Jesus' word.