

Getting Ready for Sunday!



Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The first reading and the Gospel give accounts of how people in both Old Testament times (before Jesus) and in New Testament times (from the time of Jesus) grew to know God in their lives.



As always, the first reading and Gospel carry the same theme.

Listen!

1 Kings 19:9, 11-13

The first reading is taken from the first book of Kings in the Old Testament.

It is about the prophet Elijah.

Elijah sought God in his every living moment.

Sometimes he looked too hard.

The he let God find him instead!

Today's readings have a message for our lives today!

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, **'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.'**



Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind.



**Elijah tried to hear God in
the power of the strong
wind.....**

After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake.



**Elijah tried to hear God in
the power of the great
earthquake....**

and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire;

**Elijah looked for God
in the power and
brightness of the
fire....**



After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.



**At last!
He could listen in the quiet
of his own heart...**

Then there came a voice to him that said, ***‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’***



As Elijah sat in silence, he heard God speak to him in a gentle breeze!

When was your heart quiet enough to hear God's voice and to feel God's gentle presence?

Elijah prayed with faith...and he heard God!

Elijah was ready to hear the voice of God.

He looked for God's presence in all places and in all times!

Elijah knew that God would speak to his heard!

God spoke to him when he was quiet and ready.

The next passage is from St Matthew and gives an account of St Peter's experience of God in another strong wind.

Was Peter ready?

Does he show faith in Jesus when really put to the test?

God finds a way into our hearts if we are open to God.

God found a way to both Elijah and Peter in very different ages.

Be still & know that ...

A person is sitting on a wooden bench on a grassy bank overlooking a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow across the sky and water. The foreground is filled with tall, golden-brown grasses.

I AM GOD.

Matthew 14:22-33



Jesus Walks on the Water

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away

Jesus chose the company of His closest friends!

Jesus chooses our company today – the boat of choice today is in our hearts!



After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray.



When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind.

In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear.



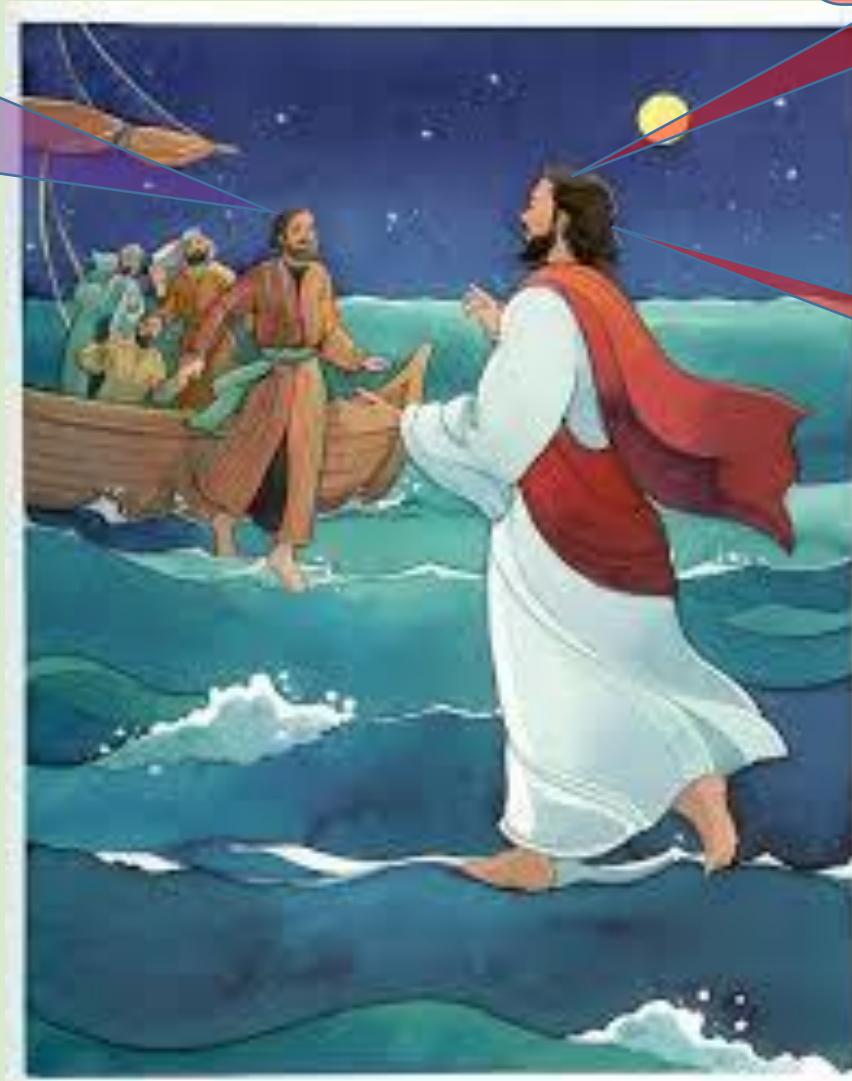
When Jesus comes to the disciples in a different way and form, they don't even recognise Him!

Have there been times when you didn't realise that Jesus was present with you?

But at once Jesus called out to them, saying:

'It was Peter who answered.

*Lord, if it is you,
tell me to come
to you across the
water.*



*Courage! It is I! Do
not be afraid.*

Come.

Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink.

Lord, save me!

**When did you last ask
God to help you?**

**How much faith did you
have then?**



Jesus put out his hand at once and held him.

Man of little faith, why did you doubt?

**How strong is your
faith when you are
really afraid?**

**Does your faith
sink?**




And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said:

**Sit with this scene
and enjoy Jesus'
company.
Shhhh!**

Truly you are the Son of God.





*"Be still, and
know that I am
God"*

Psalm 46:10

Bible Search

Read **Matthew 14:22-33** in your family Bible-this is the Gospel reading at Mass this Sunday.



Consider



When can you take time to be quiet so that you can listen to God?

Praying to Jesus



Pray for the grace to know that you are treasured in God's presence?

Ask God to help you to learn to be still.

