

## Nineteenth Sunday Ordinary Time

† Sunday, 9 August 2020



In England and Wales Cycle of Prayer:

For a deeper understanding between Christians, Jews, and Moslems

Keynote: Recognising the presence of God

### First Book of Kings 19:9, 11-13

The prophet Elijah having spent the night alone on the mountain does not find God in the *'mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountain and shattered the rocks.'* After the wind came an earthquake, *'but the Lord was not in the earthquake... not in the fire.'* But then *'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.'*

God chooses the time and place to speak with us. We just need to be open and ready to listen – to be alone with our God.

**Responsorial Psalm 84 [85]** – A song of hope for the coming era of peace

### Letter of Paul to the Romans 9:1-5

*'What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth...'* In this part of his letter, the apostle laments that many of his own Jewish kinsman *'his own flesh and blood'*, do not share his faith in Jesus Christ. *'My sorrow is so great,'* Paul says, *'my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel... they were adopted as sons... given the glory and the covenants... the promises were made to them.'* We might today deepen our understanding and appreciation of those descended from the Patriarchs – for *'from their flesh and blood came Christ.'* We too have cause to thank those who handed on the faith to us. We too have some responsibility to hand on that faith to others – to be evangelists and apostles in our own turn.

### Gospel according to Matthew 14:22-33

Following the event of the multiplication of the loaves by Jesus and the feeding of the multitude, Matthew presents us today with yet another manifestation of the power of Jesus, revealed this time in the wind and waves, of what was at times, the turbulent inland Sea of Galilee.

It was evening; Jesus had withdrawn into the hills to pray alone, sending the disciples ahead in the boat. *'While the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind... (Jesus) went towards them walking on the lake.'* It was dark, even these experienced fishermen were fearful of being swamped by the storm, and the sight of Jesus walking towards them terrifies these grown men. Peter, the always, impetuous headstrong Peter, jumps into the water. As he started walking across the water, *'he felt the force of the wind... took fright and began to sink. "Lord! Save me!" He cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. "Man of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And as they got into the boat the wind dropped.'*

This is a moment of faith for these men. The disciples bow to Jesus and say, *'Truly, you are the Son of God.'*