

PARISHES OF SURREY HILLS WATTLE PARK,  
CAMBERWELL, BALWYN & DEEPDENE  
NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
(YEAR A) • 9 AUGUST 2020



***Spending Time with the Word of God...***

*Find a quiet space*

*Place a candle as a focus for your prayer*

*When you are ready, you can light the candle to acknowledge the presence of Christ among us.*

**GATHERING RITE**

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: As we come together, let us join as a community in prayer, acknowledging our need to care and respect each other.

The Lord is rich in mercy and kindness. Let us prepare ourselves to hear God's Word and praise the Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you show us mercy and love:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: Christ Jesus, you give courage when we are afraid:  
Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: Lord Jesus, in you justice and peace have embraced:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Mighty God, your outstretched arm commands the wind and the seas and strengthens all who have faith in you. Reach out to us when we are afraid. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ.

**All: Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

*As we prepare to listen and proclaim the Gospel the following introduction can be said:*

Reader: Lord be in my heart and on my lips as I proclaim and listen to your holy Gospel.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Mt 14:22-33 Command me to come to you over 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. 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 headwind. 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. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said, 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. 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!' 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. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.**

## REFLECT AND RESPOND

Take a few moments to sit quietly, pondering the magnitude of the Word of God.

- What words resonate with you or cause you to stop and ponder?
- Note the contrasts – the chaos of the storm and the calm which follows. What does this story tell us about Jesus?

Response: The Gospel recognises that there are times in our life when we encounter stormy waters, and when our faith is tested and sometimes fails. But this does not mean that God is not with us. Reflect on a moment in your life when you felt the need to cry out and you felt a new awareness of God's presence. If you are praying with other family members, invite each to share.

Leader: Let us pray.  
Let us pray to God who cares about all our needs.

Reader: That the Church will remain faithful in times of doubt and fear.  
Lord, hear us:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That those who have troubles in their lives will find comfort in knowing that Christ is always beside them. We pray for all those facing adversity because of the pandemic, especially Victorians as we move to tighter restrictions.  
Lord, hear us:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For a better understanding and respect between all peoples of our world.  
Lord, hear us:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That those who have died will be gathered into God's arms.  
Lord, hear us:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: You are invited to share a prayer intention if you wish. (pause)  
For these and all our intentions deep in our hearts.  
Lord, hear us:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Loving God, accept our prayers and walk beside us through every storm until we come to rest in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## OUR FATHER

Leader: Jesus taught his disciples to pray, and so we have the courage to say:  
Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.

#### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

All: Jesus, you promised that you will be with us to the end of time,  
be with us today, fill us with your love.  
Jesus, come to us, for we need you.  
Although we cannot receive you in Communion today  
we unite ourselves in faith, hope and love.  
Come Lord Jesus, come into our lives.

#### CONCLUDING RITE

##### BLESSING FOR THE WORLD, FOR OUR COUNTRY AND OUR HOME

Leader: Lord Jesus, may our world be drawn ever more closely to your grace to seek  
respite and solace in our time of need. We make this prayer through Christ  
our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us from evil and bring us to everlasting life.  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**