

Subject: Daily Prayer Monday 27th April 2020
From: Anglican Church <anglicanpollenca@gmail.com>
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Good morning everyone

Breathe, relax and rest for a few moments before beginning.....

You are the peace of all things calm
You are the place to hide from harm
You are the light that shines in dark
You are the heart's eternal spark
You are the door that's open wide
You are the guest who waits inside
You are the stranger at the door
You are the calling of the poor
You are my Lord and with me still
You are my love, keep me from ill
You are the light, the truth, the way
You are my Saviour this very day.

(celtic oral tradition - 1st millennium)

John 6:16 - 29

Jesus Walks on the Water

When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going.

The Bread from Heaven

The next day the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the lake saw that there had been only one boat there. They also saw that Jesus had not got into the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. Then some boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him,

'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.'

Reflection from Canon Simon Stephens - locum at St.Andrew's

Can you swim ? When I returned from my 'Gap Year' in India in 1979, my own Diocesan Bishop of Coventry invited me to his office to discuss my future. After 12 months in Calcutta, I returned to the West Midlands 'shell-shocked', but with the hope that a senior curacy or even a 'cure of souls' in some lovely leafy Warwickshire town was being lined-up for me!

That was not the case. Mindful of the increasingly tense international situation and the shortage of chaplains in the Armed Forces, I was truly shocked when the Bishop told me that he had nominated me to serve as a chaplain in the Royal Navy. I protested! 'Bishop I am almost 40yrs and I cannot swim"! No problem he replies, "I will give you a month off church duties so that you can learn to swim. Please bring me your Swimming/Diving Certificate at the end of the month"! And so by God's grace it all happened and I was privileged to spend seventeen very happy years as a sea-rider Chaplain.

We all know and love this mornings Gospel. The Sea of Galilee is well known for its savage localised storms ; and I can almost feel the aches and pains of the disciples after a three mile passage in rough waters. I can feel their fear ! And then across the sea, walks Christ to bring them comfort and hope.

In so many different ways, our lives are not so dissimilar from those storms on the Sea of Galilee. Our lives can be buffeted about by the waves, but when we stretch out our hands to Christ in the darkness of unknowing, then we have the confidence that He will take our hands and lead us safely to dry land!

Finally, back to swimming, as I can testify it is never to late to learn! Back in Coventry, the oldest member of our class was a pensioner of 84 yrs. So after Lockdown, head for the beach and get fit.

Canon Simon Stephens

The Lord's Prayer

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. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

O God, help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord, in these days of mercy, make us quiet and prayerful;
in these days of challenge, make us stronger in you;
in these days of emptiness,
take possession of us;
in these days of waiting,
open our hearts to the mystery of your cross. Amen. (Angela Ashwin)

Blessings and prayers

Until tomorrow

Vicky