



A Reflection for Trinity Three Readings - 2 Corinthians 6.1-13 & Mark 4.35-41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'

We can bring to mind images of boats and ships being thrown around on the sea. But would you consider the same situation for a Lake or a Mere?

Windermere is not immune to the ravages of the weather. As a body of water it too can experience huge waves and boats and people being placed in peril. This is illustrated by the 18th Century painting 'Belle Isle, Windermere in a Storm' as sailors in this painting struggle to save themselves and the boat they are sailing in. Lakes can be subject to the same conditions to that of open seas.

It is evening and Jesus is exhausted. They decide to set sail across the lake in order to give Jesus some down time. It is a lovely warm evening. The calm waters are soothing, Jesus makes himself comfortable at the rear of the boat and falls asleep. Peter and the others set sail focusing on the other side of the lake and look forward to a time of rest.

The weather takes a turn for the worse and the sun disappears behind large black storm clouds. The wind picks up and the calm waters have become waves that start to rock the boat. All is alright for they are masters of a sail boat and they are used to fishing in difficult conditions. But the storm does not relent and gets worse and worse like nothing that they have seen before. The confident fishermen are terrified as the water is swamping the boat.

Peter rushes to Jesus and wakes him from his slumber. Jesus is shocked by what is happening and how scared the disciples are. He takes a moment and stands up in the boat. With a deep breath he exclaims 'Stop! Peace. Be still.' Immediately the wind ceases and the waters were calm.

Whatever we are facing in our lives Jesus promises to always be with us. In the same way that he was the disciples as they set sail across the lake and ran into difficult waters.

Thank you for reading and keep safe.

The Reverend Nick Devenish

*Please join with me for a virtual service from The Priory and Cartmel.
Available from 09.00am. Please go to the Cartmel Priory Facebook or YouTube page.*

Image - 'Belle Isle, Windermere in a Storm' by Philip James de Loutherbourg