



# SUNDAY 20 JUNE 2021

## DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

**The Parishes of:** Bishop Auckland || Newton Aycliffe & Shildon || Willington  
Crook, Tow Law & Wolsingham || Tudhoe || Coundon, Ferryhill & Windlestone

### ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

#### 12th Sunday : Mark 4: 35-41

Crowds gathered to hear Jesus. It's a fair bet they had multiple needs, brought many requests, made demands. They all wanted a piece of him. Here, it was the end of the day. He's tired. He needs to be away.

Being pulled in different directions, bombarded with problems, receiving people with attention and compassion is emotionally and physically draining. No wonder he falls asleep on the way home. Crossing the lake could take some time.

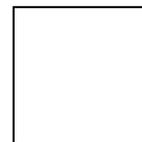
It wasn't a smooth trip. Whatever the size or condition of the boat, taking in water is serious. Gales and rough seas kept boats from setting out. Caught on open waters by high winds and invasive waves, you're tossed about dangerously and so is your stomach. The skill and experience of the crew are under severe test, the seaworthiness of the craft likewise. Put yourself in there with them. It's scary - you might never arrive. But he's still fast asleep!

We've all been through stormy times. Stuff can crop up without warning. Our competence is finite. On desperate days we may feel very inadequate. Our mates might share our feelings but maybe also our limitations. Calling for help is a strength, though it may feel like weakness.

This is a popular story. We can read it as an event, a parable, or both. The heartening message is super-attractive - Jesus calms the wind and the water. The danger is over, the relief wonderful. Problem solved. Except that's not the whole story.

The episode is full of questions and they're asked of us. The lads start - Does Jesus care? Does he sleep though our storms? And Jesus asks why we are so frightened. How is it we have no faith? Mindsearching, probing questions. Pat answers probably dodge the issues. Best replies are lived rather than spoken. God is not an insurance policy. Fishermen are familiar with weather and bad conditions. When someone re-writes the received wisdom, quiz yourself about him. Often.

Just don't wait until the next storm.



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#### Pope Francis: Today's Gospel and Creation

*Jesus lived in full harmony with creation, and others were amazed: "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?" (Matthew 8:27). His appearance was not that of an ascetic set apart from the world, nor of an enemy to the pleasant things of life. Of himself he said, "The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard!'" (Matthew 11:19). He was far removed from philosophies which despised the body, matter and the things of the world. Such unhealthy dualisms, nonetheless, left a mark on certain Christian thinkers in the course of history and disfigured the Gospel. Jesus worked with his hands, in daily contact with the matter created by God, to which he gave form by his craftsmanship. It is striking that most of his life was dedicated to this task in a simple life which awakened no admiration at all; "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary?" (Mark 6:3). In this way he sanctified human labour and endowed it with a special significance for our development. As Saint John Paul II taught, "By enduring the toil of work in union with Christ crucified for us, man in a way collaborates with the Son of God for the redemption of humanity."*

- *Laudato Si para 98*