

Creation Time

Storm Sunday

September 15, 2019

Archbishop David Sommerville, who was a wonderful mentor to me, said, when people come up to me and ask me to pray for rain my response is always God does not do the weather report or fulfil it at will.

Our readings the morning all place God in the middle of the storms and the overwhelming waves that they bring. How do I explain this? I do believe that God is the midst of whatever the storm might be whether in the wind and waves or in those storm that attack our hearts, souls and mind.

The first time I experienced a storm that look overwhelming was when my family lived in Prince Rupert in the late 1960's. A storm was predicted but few people actually understood how bad it was going to be.

I watched as my neighbours rooves were blown off and torrential rain came pouring into the homes, they had worked so hard to build. We all felt like the fishermen in Jesus boat, terrified. But by the time the storm had finished its mayhem people both from nearby and from in the small town that we all called home were out with help. Temporary housing, tarpaulins to cover open living spaces, clothes, food and the warmth of friendship was everywhere there was a problem to be found. What had seemed overwhelming and too frightening to believe became an opportunity for community. Many of those giving assistance were people of faith, all faiths, and some were not, but seeing people in trouble brought the best out of them. The waves had not come to a halt but the hearts of the people were moved to help their fellow citizens and peace was discovered in unexpected places.

God was there!

There was a time in my life when I was very troubled and so I sought out help from a councillor. He told me week after week that it was not the people around me that were a problem, it was just me. I realized on my drive home after one session when I really realised that it wasn't just me, I turned on my car radio and

one of the most popular tunes of the day came on. It was a piece called, ***I Never Promised You a Rose Garden***. I began to laugh as I thought of having a garden like everyone else and it's full of thorns. It did make me feel better. Life is a beautiful rose garden but most roses do have thorns. And suddenly I knew that whatever the outcome of the deep depression I had found my self wading in, God was there.

God is there whether we know it or not. Even in the midst of the most dreadful storm God always offers refuge; a guide for the lost, comfort for the oppressed and love for those who feel unlovable.

We may be in awe and sometimes feel overwhelmed by the storms of life. But it is in community that we so often find the answer. We are never alone, for God is with us and among us wherever we find friends and community.

The fishman knew this too. They knew God was with them, in their community in the middle of the storm and at all times. Their faith was strong even when they were afraid in the middle of chaos because they knew in the hearts and minds that God was there.

God is here. God is with us.