

Perhaps we all need miracles, if not literally, then through the messages they contain.

Sue Wilson

Entrance antiphon: All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!

First Readings: 1 Kings:19: 16, 19-21

Psalms 15: Response: O lord, it is you who are my portion.

Second Reading: Galatians 5: 1, 13-18

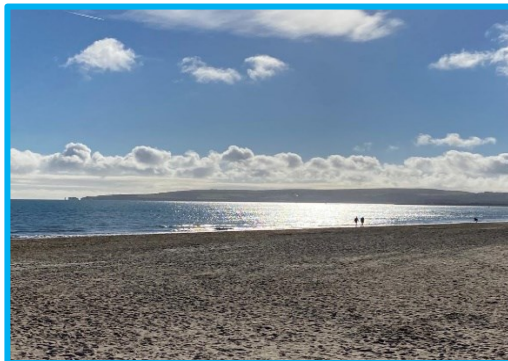
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 9: 51-62

Memorial Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.

“Two old men had lived together for many years and they had never fought with one another. The first said to the other, "Let us also have a fight like other men." The other replied, "I do not know how to fight." The first said to him, "Look, I will put a brick between us and I will say: it is mine; and you will reply: no, it is mine; and so the fight will begin." So they put a brick between them and the first said, "It is mine", and the other said, "No, it is mine." And the first replied, "If it is yours, take it and go." So they gave it up without being able to find a cause for an argument”. –*Sayings of the Desert Fathers*



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Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle C, 2022

Weekly Reflection: Miracles

Do you believe in miracles? As people living in a post enlightenment, sceptical, scientific age the answer

may be emphatically no. But perhaps, before dismissing them as the products of a less sophisticated age, we should reflect on what deeper messages can be discerned. St John refers to the miracles of Jesus as ‘signs’. Signs of who Jesus is and what he stands for, signs of God’s love in action. The first miracle or sign in John’s gospel, is not a healing, but the miracle at Cana- “you have saved the best wine until now!” Is this a ‘sign’ that Jesus wants the best for us?

The healing of the leper (Mark1:40-45) is a powerful testimony of Jesus’ compassion. The leper was man who would have been excluded from his community, separated from family and friends and deprived of human touch, for fear of his disease. A situation recently repeated for so many through the pandemic. We know from other miracles, like the centurions’ servant, that Jesus does not need to touch someone to heal them; he does not even meet some of those he heals. Yet, with the leper, Jesus not only heals the man- he touches him, showing an awareness of his loneliness and isolation as well as his physical illness.

The calming of the storm, (Mark 4:35-41) can also be seen as a parable. The evangelist Mark was writing for a persecuted early Christian community, who would have easily identified the wind and waves as symbolic of their sufferings. Their sense of being abandoned, as Jesus asleep in the boat; and the words of Jesus, “Why are you frightened? Have you no faith?” as a reminder to hold on to their hope in him. This message can also be used by us, as we face the storms and fears of our own lives.