



CELEBRATING AT HOME

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Life in the Kingdom of God (Mk 4:35-41)*



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### Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Lord is here, present among us.

**We are gathered with the whole Church  
in this moment of prayer.**

### Preparing to hear the Word

We have been called by God  
to be the Church,

**the Body of Christ in this world.**

We are not a building, but a people,  
gathered and grounded in

**the Word of God,  
the love of Christ,  
and the unity of the Holy Spirit.**

Lord Jesus, you are

**our Way,  
our Truth,  
and our Life.**

### Scripture Reading *(Mark 4:35-41)*

With the coming of evening, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let us cross over to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind they took him, just as he was, in the boat; and there were other boats with him. Then it began to blow a gale and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was almost swamped. But he was in the stern, his head on the cushion, asleep. They woke him and said to him, 'Master, do you not care? We are going down!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Quiet now! Be calm!' And the wind dropped, and all was calm again.

Then he said to them, 'Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?' They were filled with awe and said to one another, 'Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.'

### Reflection - *Life in the Kingdom of God*

In Mark's Gospel the Kingdom is not something yet to come, it is a present reality. It is the presence and action (reign) of God among his people. That may not always been readily seen, but it is there none the less.

Last Sunday Mark used two parables to talk about the reality of the Kingdom. Over the next few Sundays he begins to talk about the mystery of the Kingdom present in Jesus and what living in the Kingdom requires. None Mark's stories are about some awesome display of power. Mark's stories make it clear that Jesus is about saving human beings, healing them and calming hearts disturbed by life's storms. In Jesus is the power of life and liberation.

Sudden storms on Lake Galilee were well-known and still happen today.

Many of our 'boats' and those of our loved ones have been tossed about on turbulent seas since the sudden arrival of Coronavirus and everything that has happened since. Many of us know exactly the kind of fear and uncertainty that the disciples felt as they were tossed about in the darkness on the stormy lake in this Sunday's Gospel. Many may also feel that Jesus is asleep somewhere.

And yet, signs of Jesus are all about us: in people trying their best to look after others, to provide meals and shelter, to keep themselves and their loved ones safe, to work for peace in the midst of conflict to bring comfort and to pray.

Vulnerability is an uncomfortable experience. Mark helps us understand that life in the Kingdom begins with faith and confidence in God especially in the midst of epic struggles which threaten to overcome us.

The disciples' question is ours, too. Who is Jesus for us? A magician, a wonder-worker, or a person who found the way to let the reign of God's grace out of his heart and into the lives of those around him?

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### Prayers of Intercession

When our lives are full of struggle and we are overwhelmed,  
**encourage our faith and melt away all distress with your loving calmness.**

When the world is in crisis and hunger and war prevail,  
**enliven our desire for justice and peace.**

When pain and suffering threaten our joy and fill us with fear,  
**strengthen our healing and our hope.**

### Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus, we pray:

**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.**

### Closing Prayer

Ever-faithful God  
you abide with us and give us your peace.  
May we believe in you completely  
and rest in your divine presence today and always.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### Blessing

May the Lord bless us,  
keep us from all evil,  
and lead us to life everlasting.  
**Amen.**





# Journey into the Light

This resource is presented by the Carmelites for use by individuals, families and small groups as a prayerful celebration of the Word of God to help prepare us to celebrate the Eucharist with our worshipping communities. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. We are also conscious of the many people who, for various reasons including sickness and infirmity, cannot physically attend the Eucharist. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family.



**The Carmelites**  
Australia & Timor-Leste

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