

BULLETIN 22

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

An emergency help of £226,000 is to be rushed out to Beirut by ACN in the wake of the huge explosion yesterday (4th August).

At least 100 people were killed and 4,000 others were injured when 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate stored in a warehouse exploded.

Speaking from Beirut, ACN project partner Father Raymond Abdo told the charity: **“The explosion felt like an atomic bomb with red smoke everywhere and huge damage.”**

ACN Lebanon expert Father Samer Nassif, said that **the Christian zone of Beirut was “completely devastated”, with at least 10 churches destroyed, 300,000 people homeless and many others suffering, with livelihoods “totally destroyed” by the blast.**

He said: “Yesterday in one second, more damage to the Christian quarter of Beirut was done than throughout the long years of the civil war.

“We have to build it again from the ground up.”

Aid to the Church in Need is appealing for prayer for the victims and their families.

Read more [here](#)

HELP US SUPPORT THOSE IN NEED

WORSHIP THIS WEEK IN CHURCH AND ON LIVE STREAM

Sun 9 – 19 of the year

1000 Mass

People of the Parish

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| | 1800 Mass | Gerald & Mary Birchall |
| Tue 11 – St. Clare` | 1030 Rosary | |
| Wed 12– feria | 1000 Mass | John Hogan (RIP) |
| Thu 13 –Ss. Pontian & Hippolytus | 1000 Mass | John & Elizabeth (RIP) |
| | 1030 Adoration | |
| Fri 14 – St. Maximillian Kolbe | 1000 Mass | Jo Gallagher (RIP) |
| | 1030 Stations | |
| Sun 16- The Assumption BVM | 1000 Mass | People of the Parish |
| | 1800 Mass | Princess Alexandra Hospital |

GOSPEL REFLECTION

“Man of little faith... why did you doubt?”

On 16 July 1969, three American astronauts, Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Buzz Aldrin, were strapped in their capsule at the head of a mighty Saturn rocket, and were blasted into space at the beginning of their eight-day mission to land the first human beings on the surface of the moon. This historic event took place as the culmination of years of research, development and planning. They were engaged in something no other human being had done before, and yet they were just part of a huge team of scientists and engineers that worked together to achieve their goal. Nevertheless, each of the astronauts had to make a huge act of faith that this whole operation would work out. Their lives depended on it.

Today in the Gospel we find Peter being invited by Jesus to do something no other human being had done before or after, to walk on the waters of a stormy lake. Here there was no lengthy preparation; no team of collaborators: just Jesus and a crew of frightened disciples. Nevertheless, Peter had to put his faith in Jesus. He had heard the wonderful teaching of Jesus. He had witnessed many miracles of healing and casting out demons. Recently he had witnessed how Jesus had fed more than five thousand people with only five loaves and two fish. But now the act of faith was personal. For him it was a matter of life or death. So long as he kept his gaze on Jesus he was safe. Once he looked around and saw the stormy waters and heard the sound of the wind, his faith weakened and he began to sink. Fortunately, Jesus was there to take him by the hand and bring him safely into the boat, enabling all the disciples to declare their new-found faith, “Truly, you are the Son of God.”

In our first reading, we find the prophet Elijah hiding from his enemies, Ahab and Jezebel, who want to kill him. He is on his own. He is disillusioned with the life and work of a prophet. He is angry with God for putting him in this situation. Maybe he wants to see God act with power, but God reveals himself not in the wind or the earthquake or the fire. God is revealed in the whisper of a gentle breeze.

Every day we all make little acts of faith in the wonders of modern technology. Most of the time they are not a matter of life or death, but it is a source of wonder how we can talk to each other and see each other in real time wherever we might be in the world. We take for granted that all the wonders of modern science and medicine will work their miracles for us and we are aggrieved when something goes wrong. However, we are so used to what we human beings can do through our own ingenuity that we lose

sight of the bigger picture, of the God who holds all things in being, the God who is the source of all our knowledge and skill.

We, like Elijah, can ask ourselves, where is God in the turbulence of our times? We can lose sight of the daily miracles in life all around us. We want God to speak up loud and clear so that everyone can see and believe. But, as with Elijah, so with us. God does not speak in extraordinary ways, in storms and earthquakes and fire. We find God when we quietly listen and look beneath the surface of our lives. We find Jesus, who invites us to step out of the security of our little boat into the rough waters of everyday life. He invites us to keep our gaze on him, to listen to him and not be afraid of the turmoil raging around us.

So today let's listen to Jesus, who tells us to have courage and not to be afraid, who invites us to come to him through all the storms of our life. Let's keep our eyes fixed on him, our ears attuned to his voice. We surely will recognise his presence in the daily miracles of our life: the little acts of love that we receive and are able to give. As we try to close our ears to the violence all around us, we listen for that still small voice of calm, who assures us of his presence, "Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid!"

SWEET Sacrament divine,
Hid in thine earthly home,
Lo, round thy lowly shrine,
With suppliant hearts we come;
Jesu, to thee our voice we raise
In songs of love and heartfelt praise:
Sweet Sacrament divine.

Sweet Sacrament of peace,
Dear home for every heart,
Where restless yearnings cease
And sorrows all depart;
There in thine ear all trustfully
We tell our tale of misery:
Sweet Sacrament of peace.

**Sweet Sacrament of rest,
Ark from the ocean's roar,
Within thy shelter blest
Soon may we reach the shore;
Save us, for still the tempest raves,
Save, lest we sink beneath the waves:
Sweet Sacrament of rest.**

Sweet Sacrament divine,
Earth's light and jubilee,
In thy far depths doth shine
The Godhead's majesty;
Sweet light, so shine on us, we pray
That earthly joys may fade away:
Sweet Sacrament divine.