

October Reflection

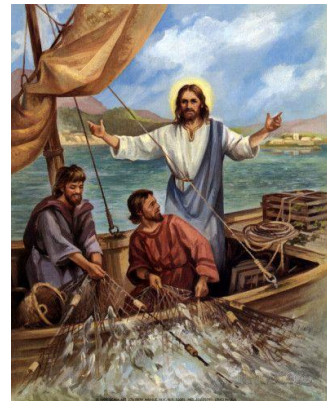


Dear Friends,

I cannot believe we have reached October, the time certainly seems to have passed quickly, despite all the ups and downs so far this year.

It hasn't been an easy time for any of us, but you know through it all, with Jesus as our guide and prayer as our support, we have made it thus far.

I know we will have lost some of our friends, but we all know that God has hold of them and is keeping them safe until we can all meet up again. Just as I began writing this, a hymn came into my head, *will your anchor hold in the storms of life*. This also reminded me of those first disciples of Jesus, those who were fishermen, Simon (later called Peter), Andrew, his brother and James and John, the sons of Zebedee, here they were going about their hard working day job, when along comes Jesus and shakes things up more than a bit. We have been shaken up more than a bit, but we are here to bear one another's burdens. We have all been doing that for months, I know, and we continue to do so.



The Trustees in all our dioceses have been doing this by ensuring that we, the members, are linked to each other

in any way possible. They have bound us together with unbreakable cords and love. This includes the Worldwide Trustees who have been using prayer to support the members of staff, both those who will leave us this month and those who will stay and take on extra burdens to ensure that we are still able to keep this organisation, of which we are all so proud to be members, on the right track. So that when things become more 'normal' we will be able to meet in our branches, we will also be able to visit one another's homes, whether that is our own home or a home shared with others.

Most of are now able to return to church and also receive Communion, I hope and pray that it will not be long



before we are all able to do so and that those who need to be at home, will also be able to receive.

It is such an uplifting experience to be able to share with others and celebrate being the people of God. In Ephesians 1: 4-6 we read: - *Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.* This is something wonderful for us to cling on to as we continue to pray, bear one another's burdens and walk hand in hand with Jesus into the future, just as those first disciples did. I am sure they very often asked: - *will your anchor hold in the storms of life.*

May the Lord bless you, keep you safe and bring you peace.

Love Jenny

Let us pray;

Father, we thank you that you care for us and have made us members of your family, walk with us through this month and in the months to come. We pray for all who are still struggling to cope with life, asking that they may know the strength of your love.

We remember those who are working tirelessly to enable us all continue in love and fellowship as members of the Mothers' Union, particularly those who work behind the scenes. Forgive us when we forget that we can only truly stand in your strength and not our own. We praise you Father, and bless your Holy name.

Amen

We have an anchor that keeps the soul steadfast and sure as the billows roll; fastened to the rock which cannot move, grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!

