



Jesus cares

To celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, the couple returned to their honey moon hotel. After retiring the wife said, "Darling, do you remember how you stroked my hair?" And so he stroke her hair. She reminded him of the way he massaged her back and so he did. With a sigh she said, "Won't you nibble my ear again?" with that the husband got out of bed and left the room. "Where are you going?" Cried the upset wife. "To get my teeth!" replied the husband.

In today's Gospel we see the disciples trying to escape from the crowds. Jesus is tired and asleep on a cushion at the stern of the boat. "then it began to blow a gale and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was almost swamped". They woke him and said to him, "Master, do you not care? We are going down!" The word 'care' finds its roots in the Gothic "Kara" which means lament. The basic meaning of care is: to grieve, to experience sorrow, to cry out with. We often feel quite uncomfortable with an invitation to enter into someone's pain before doing something about it. I remember an incident in which I was called to the hospital to be with a family who just lost a still born baby. There is a strong inclination to say to the couple 'don't be so sad, the baby is in the hands of God or there are many other good things left in life..' but I said to them, "I do not know what to say or what to do but I am here with you." I believed that being present to other people's pain, illness or even death is what really matters. Jesus listened to his disciples concerns and he gave them consolation and hope by being present to their fear and their lack of faith.

Like the disciples, we often complain, resent when facing challenges, or difficulties in life and we tend to ask God to take these away immediately, otherwise we panic. Jesus said to his disciples and to us, "Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?" He encouraged us to return to him in trusting prayer which will restore peace and hope to our hearts. He is there with a love that has no boundary.

Let us pray that we will always trust in God even in the hopeless situations, and come to realise that He cares and that we do matter to Him.