

These readings this Sunday are beautiful, reminding us not to miss out on the opportunities to see God when he seeks us out. There is a caveat, a warning, we must allow God to meet us on his ground not just where we allow ourselves to meet God.

The first reading is chosen to match the gospel, the backdrop is the same for each encounter, Mount Horeb. Elijah is fleeing for his life and finds himself on the same barren background as the gospel, the last place where you would expect to see the glory of God. No vegetation, no animals, stark, large, grey granite and sulphur rocks. Elijah is urgently seeking God's protection. He is told to stand out of the mouth of the cave. There was a mighty wind – surely God would be where there is power, but Elijah does not see God there. Then came an earthquake, surely Elijah would find God in such a powerful event. But God is not found there. Then came the fire, but again Elijah does not find God there either. It is in the unexpected - the gentle breeze, the insignificant, that Elijah finds God. And in this seemingly insignificant event, Elijah is protected by the all-encompassing love of God.

Peter too, in the midst of a disaster, sees God coming towards him, calling him to trust him. Peter finds himself walking on the water! Then Peter looks down and fails to trust not only his friend, but God. The reading reminds us to be open to the many times, God comes to meet us and to be open to His presence. Open to the miraculous, often, in events where we would hardly expect the incredible.

Both these events are not events to only help Peter and Elijah in their own personal journeys, but were events to encourage them to help others, walk in their journeys. There is a humility in finding Christ on his terms. An act of faith that is open to understanding and accepting that God knows what He is doing, not only in our lives, but also in the lives of others. The joy in being loved when we least expect it.