

Thoughts on the Daily Word:

33rd Week of Year. Wednesday 18th November. Ded. Basilicas of Ss. Peter & Paul. Readings: Acts 28:11-16,30-31; Psalm: 97; Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33.

Stepping out into the unknown must be like walking on water. In the Gospel story we think of Peter stepping out onto the water, but do we ever wonder what it must have been like for Jesus? Somehow, we take that bit for granted, another miracle by Jesus. But just how did he feel when he first stepped on the water? The reaching out bit for both Peter and Jesus is so powerful. What it must have felt like grasping one another! The same with Paul, who knows that he is facing death in Rome and after a long journey is so touched by being approached and probably embraced by the Roman Christians. For all of us faith comes by that embrace, that touch and that welcome. What did Jesus need to make him take that extraordinary risk himself? His Father's presence must have been so powerful or maybe it was his Mother holding him when he took his first steps? It does make us realise just how human Jesus was and how it is alright for us to be human too. That is what basilicas are meant to do for us, root us in our shared humanity.