

JESUS WALKS ON THE WATER (Matthew 14:22-33)

Revised Standard Version (Catholic Edition) – as quoted in the Pope's letter

²² Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. ²⁷ But immediately he spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear."

²⁸ And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; ³⁰ but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Jerusalem Bible – as used at Mass

²² Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. ²³ After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. ²⁵ In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, ²⁶ and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷ But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' ²⁸ It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' ²⁹ 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, ³⁰ but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. ³¹ Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' ³² And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. ³³ The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

Good News Translation – for children

²² Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people away. ²³ After sending the people away, he went up a hill by himself to pray. When evening came, Jesus was there alone; ²⁴ and by this time the boat was far out in the lake, tossed about by the waves, because the wind was blowing against it.

²⁵ Between three and six o'clock in the morning Jesus came to the disciples, walking on the water. ²⁶ When they saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said, and screamed with fear.

²⁷ Jesus spoke to them at once. "Courage!" he said. "It is I. Don't be afraid!"

²⁸ Then Peter spoke up. "Lord, if it is really you, order me to come out on the water to you."

²⁹ "Come!" answered Jesus. So Peter got out of the boat and started walking on the water to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he was afraid and started to sink down in the water. "Save me, Lord!" he cried.

³¹ At once Jesus reached out and grabbed hold of him and said, "What little faith you have! Why did you doubt?"

³² They both got into the boat, and the wind died down. ³³ Then the disciples in the boat worshiped Jesus. "Truly you are the Son of God!" they exclaimed.