



“Keep Calm and Carry On”

“Keep Calm and Carry On” was a slogan on a motivational poster produced by the British government (Attributed to Winston Churchill) in 1939 in preparation for the World War II. The poster was intended to raise the morale of the British public threatened with widely predicted mass air attacks throughout the country.

Although the phrase caught on as a national slogan in times of fear, the Brits were not the first to issue this saying. In fact, from the beginning of time, God has repeatedly told his people, “Do not fear, do not be afraid and go forward”. Jesus himself tells his Disciples in the middle of a storm on the Sea of Galilee, “Take heart, I am God: do not be afraid” (Matthew 14:27). The words “do not be afraid” occur almost 100 times in the Scriptures.

God knows that even our faith does not banish fear, but our faith and the Holy Scriptures teaches us whose name to call. It is the name that called forth order out of chaos in creation. It is the name that brings forth a calming order at the Sea of Galilee. It is the name that brings forth a calming order out of the chaos and storms of our lives. So, in this current storm of chaos caused by the Coronavirus, let us all remember “Take heart, do not be afraid, stay calm and carry on.”

As you know, all worship services and group activities will be cancelled until Palm Sunday. I would suggest that you use this Lenten time wisely and faithfully by reading scripture, devotionals and spiritual readings. I highly recommend the communal reading of the *Daily Bread* and the Lenten study, *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton. I especially recommend *The Walk* as transformational readings for our parish. Also, the private use of the *Book of Common Prayer*, especially the Daily Prayers, can be useful and a blessing. Together let us:

- “Keep calm and carry on,”
- “Take heart, do not be afraid,”
- “Pray for protection, healing and restoration,”
- “Fortify yourself with spiritual readings and study,”
- “Stand firm in our faith.”

We can do this . . . together!

Further communications about directions, instructions and recommendations will be forthcoming.

God’s Peace,

Fr. Terry †