

Last Friday, Pope Francis gave his Blessing 'Urbi et orbi' ('To Rome and the world') and stood alone in St Peter's Square as he pent an Hour of Prayer for the world under the assault of Coronavirus.

Pope Francis built his reflection upon the Gospel of Mark 4: 35-41

*"With the coming of evening that same day, he said to them, 'Let us cross over to the other side.'*

*And leaving the crowd behind they took him, just as he was, in the boat; and there were other boats with him.*

*Then it began to blow a great gale and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was almost swamped.*

*But he was in the stern, his head on the cushion, asleep.*

*They woke him and said to him, 'Master, do you not care? We are lost!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Quiet now! Be calm!' And the wind dropped, and there followed a great calm.*

*Then he said to them, 'Why are you so frightened? Have you still no faith?'*

*They were overcome with awe and said to one another, 'Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him. "'*

Part 1:                   OUR WORLD'S DARKNESS

"When evening had come" (Mk 4:35). For weeks now it has been evening. Darkness has gathered over our cities; it has taken over our lives with a deafening silence. We notice it in people's gestures, their glances give them away. We find ourselves afraid and lost. Like the

disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other.





