



St Marylebone  
Parish Church

## Trinity 4 2021 11 am

Mark 5.21-43

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Two very different people, one a very wealthy powerful religious leader, with the community at his feet, and another a poor, unnoticed woman, downtrodden and excluded from worship and society because of illness come to Jesus in this morning's Gospel reading.

One comes to Jesus, boldly, openly, not on his own behalf but on behalf of his mortally sick daughter.

The other petitioner, comes furtively, hiding herself away, afraid of being noticed, seeking something for herself.

But, whilst the two people could not be more different, their quest was really the same: each of them seeks life and health: "to live and be well" as St Mark records.

The Greek words we translate as "to live and be well" 'σωθη και ζηση' (sewthay cai tsaysay) might perhaps be better translated as 'safe and sound' (not least because they preserve the assonance of sewthay and tsayay), although 'freed from injury and peril', 'made safe and secure', 'pardoned and delivered', 'rescued from harm and received into a safe place' would all work well too.

This deep-seated need to be 'safe and sound' 'to live and be well' is something we all know about.

It doesn't matter which language we speak; be it Greek, English, French, Arabic, Hebrew, Yoruba, Kinawanda or Ebo, the feeling, the longing, the need the words express is the same.

These are the words of every anxious parent for a sick or troubled child; they are the words of a wife praying for a sick husband; they are the words struggling to cross the parched and cracked lips of a refugee clinging to the side of a raft tossed on the sea.

We all want to be 'σωθη και ζηση' (sewthay cai tsaysay), 'alive and well', 'freed from injury and peril', 'made safe and secure', 'pardoned and delivered', 'rescued from harm and received into a safe place'.

Today, Jayden, Yasmin, Malique, Anne-Marie and Emma come to Jesus. They come seeking life and hope and forgiveness and to be made whole in and through the One who welcomes, receives, pardons, forgives.

Those who come to Jesus in our Gospel reading find what they are looking for; they find life and wholeness, they are 'freed from injury and peril', they are 'made safe and secure', are 'pardoned and delivered', they are 'rescued from harm and received into a safe place' – a safe place for all eternity. May we, Jayden, Yasmin, Malique, Anne-Marie and Emma, and all who come to Jesus find him, live and be well.

Amen.