

Dear Friends,

I am writing this less than a week before I drive to Harwich to pick up my mother Paula (88 years old and in a wheelchair) and her friend and carer Karen (who is a mere 76) as they arrive in Harwich at lunch-time after an 18-hour voyage across the North Sea.

What is so unusual about that, you may say? And yes, this is of course what many people do when they want to get from one country to another. But when you reach a certain age, it does take a lot of courage, prayer and determination to do what they are doing, crossing the ocean to experience my daughter Heidi getting married to Darren on St David's Day, and spending two whole weeks with us all — four generations together.

So today's Thought is very much in tribute to Paula and Karen. And may God bless them both on their travels.

The North Sea can sometimes be rough, and Margaret and I have known occasions when the ship has been forced to stay near the shores of Germany, Hol-

land and France for part of the crossing and then whip across to Harwich on the last stretch. This has never really added to the journey time but it has often made the crossing safer and more comfortable. In the end, it is all down to the captain and what he decides to do for the safety of all on board.

This reminds me of Jesus in the boat in the storm on the lake where his disciples, all seasoned fishermen, were scared stiff, while the Master rested His head on a pillow in the back of the boat secure in the knowledge that nothing would harm him or those on board if only they would put their faith in God.

I don't know about you, but putting my faith in God always gives me a feeling of deep calm and comfort, as in doing so you give over your own fears, doubts and concerns to Him, and Him alone.

So, Paula and Karen, here's praying for calm waters, but if that is not to be, trust in the captain. God bless you both!

Thought for
the weak



with the Rev Preben
Andersen

Rev Preben Andersen