

DO NOT FEAR – I AM WITH YOU

This passage was shared with me this week by a brother who has drawn deep strength from it while his wife lies in ICU struck down by Covid.

FROM ISAIAH 43...

*But now, this is what the Lord says— he who created you, Jacob,
He who formed you, Israel:*

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned;

the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour;

These powerful verses are the word of the Lord to the nation Israel, but equally to us all in the winter of 2021 that has brought chilling events and fears.

It struck me that Israel must have been feeling vulnerable, weak and helpless. So do we when want to reach out and help someone with a deep need. We also feel inadequate and wonder if anything we offer can really make a difference. Yes of course it makes a difference. Don't stop believing that!

But the words in this passage that really stand out are:

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

As the Lord holds the hand of Israel, so we can hold the hand of someone who is going through rough waters. It is a beautiful and powerful encouragement for the human spirit when you know that you are not alone.

St. John said: “We love because He first loved us.”

We can say: “We hold hands because He first held ours.”

Paul