

## **Reflection for Wednesday of Easter Week 2020**

It is interesting that, in all the resurrection appearances, Jesus is not recognised by people who knew him very, very well. Did he disguise or hide his appearance from them? Did he want to show them that they would not recognise him unless he allowed them to do so? In yesterday's reading, Mary Magdalen who loved and revered Jesus deeply did not recognise him until he called her by name. Today the two disciples only recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread. It would seem that there was something very different about the resurrected Christ and yet it was the same Christ. One response to this question is to realise that Jesus does not always appear to us as we would expect or even like. Yet, however we recognise Christ today, it is always the same Christ. Any recognition of Christ begins with a desire to encounter Christ and demands an act of the will and a desire to respond to that presence. The clearest example of this is Mary, his mother. Mary was invited- asked - to become the mother of Jesus - she could have said no. Fortunately for us she didn't. In Baptism we are named. God calls us by name and we spend the rest of our lives trying to respond to being called by name and like Mary seek to bring Christ into the world so that others will encounter Jesus and be open to transformation by his name.

What is so comforting and uplifting about the story of the Emmaus disciples is that they recognise Jesus in the breaking of bread - at the Eucharist. We are being clearly shown why the eucharist is so important. For Christ reveals himself to us each time we celebrate the eucharist. This is true whether you are present with us physically or spiritually or electronically. Christ comes to you in your own homes through this eucharist and is ready to transform your day every time that you recognise his presence and respond to it with a YES.

The following reflection is by someone pained by the lockdown and unable to celebrate Easter with family and friends and others, but still experiences the risen Christ:

*"I have kept up my daily walks. I live on the edge of a city so I can reach areas of woodland, river and meadow within my allotted daily walk. Besides the birds bursting into song left, right and centre, and the trees bursting into leaf, I have also seen swans building a nest, sheep with their lambs and baby rabbits with their families. The lambs gambol along with such joy, and we saw the baby rabbits do a little leap in the air!*

*I cannot help but feel that this is God's gentle way of reminding me that it is not 'always Lent and never Easter'. He lives in our hearts and speaks directly to us every day."*

***For, we are the Easter people and alleluia is our song!!***

***And . . . . .***

"I went to Waterstones and asked the woman for a book about turtles. She said 'hardback?' and I was like, 'yeah and little heads.'" - Mark Simmons