

Reflection Easter Wednesday 2021

Over the past year we have learned the value and importance of coming together if only because it has been very restricted. Jesus reveals himself, his presence, at a meal with the two disciples in Emmaus. This is why we say grace before meals, to recognise Jesus' presence with us. Social distancing, mask-wearing and the inability to speak together socially after a celebration of the Eucharist still hurts and undermines the importance of the sharing. Yet, Christ is truly present and will open us to his presence and the presence of those around us in a new way. There is a brightness, a welcome and an openness in people's eyes, present at mass, that reaches out to those around them and we are called to be more attentive to this. In doing so it will help us see Jesus' presence more clearly. Peter healed the cripple at the beautiful gate enabling him to walk – and jump. Whenever we recognise Jesus' presence whatever the situation, it will always be a pick-me-up and fill us with joy and thanksgiving. This we most desperately need and is a gift of the Easter Promise.

THE UNNAMED FRIEND by Maude Carolan Pych

*Cleopas and friend walked and talked
with lumbering gaits and downcast faces,
shining hopes of sweet redemption
dashed and obliterated.
They asked of each other the Why question.
For, if anyone had come to fill those old prophecies
surely it had seemed to be Him,
that Jesus they'd come to know
through signs and wonders
that appeared to be miraculous.
Their so-called Messiah had been crucified,
was dead and gone. Yes, gone, gone, gone!
Even His cold dead body was missing
from the tomb that had been sealed—
He approached them
in the midst of their perplexity
on the road to Emmaus.
He walked with them, talked with them,
they even felt His fire
but didn't know who He was,
and, strange as that may seem,
how often have I been the unnamed friend of Cleopas?
I, too, profess to know Him, know Him well
yet fail to recognize Him along the road.*