

Thought for the Day

The Emmaus Road

Reading: Luke 24 v 13-35

Many of you will have seen the detective series Columbo on TV. You are told at the beginning who the murderer is and then watch how the detective works it all out. In the same way the Gospel records show us how Jesus' followers gradually figured out that Jesus had risen from the dead and what it all meant.

The passage above recounts the Emmaus Road experience, one of my favourite incidents in the Bible. Just think of the buzz in and around Jerusalem as people talked about Jesus who had been crucified but had, according to eyewitnesses, risen from the dead and been seen alive.

How would we have reacted in such a situation? In fact how are we coping in the current Coronavirus pandemic? We seem to be disconnected from reality, without any fixed points. The pattern imposed by our weekly schedule no longer exists and every day is the same.

Jesus joined the two travellers who did not initially recognise him and then suddenly they did. How would you feel? Excited, relieved, thrilled to bits, crying with joy, disbelieving, confused, probably a combination of all those emotions.

None of us has had the opportunity to meet Jesus in the way the two travellers did on the road to Emmaus. We know him through prayer, the Bible, other people and any other ways he chooses to reveal himself to us.

As we find our bearings in the current situation let us (and I include myself!) make the most of the extra time we have to open ourselves up to God. Wouldn't it be great to have the same spiritual experience as the travellers did when they said, "Were not our hearts burning within us?"

Ivan Hacking