

Thought for the Day

Thought for the day is based on one of the day's lectionary readings.

For the Bible online, go to: <http://bible.oremus.org/>

Choose your version (we use NRSV in church)

Copy and paste the reference into the search box and the passage will be displayed.

Wednesday 15th April

Luke 24.13-35

The road to Emmaus story must be one of my favourites in the gospels. It's so easy to identify with the characters. The couple walking slowly home, trudging perhaps, and you can feel their depression, their despair as Luke says they '*stood still, looking sad*', and they said to the stranger, '*we had hoped...*'. All the stuffing, as it were, had gone out of them. There seemed no point in anything, anymore. But then the transformation at that moment of revelation – breaking bread – they saw that the stranger whom they had hospitably invited into their home, was no stranger but the most loved friend of all, the very one they grieved for. And suddenly they were totally energised and ran all the way back to Jerusalem. The part I want us to think about today is the way that Jesus was there, beside them, walking the road with them, before they recognised him. And then let's go on to reflect that in the moment they did recognise him, he was immediately gone.

Now there were other times when the disciples spent extended time with the risen Lord. But not this time. It's as if he gave them one brief glimpse, and then left them to draw what should be the obvious conclusion. We may not be able to see him at the moment – but that doesn't mean he isn't here. Seeing, in the physical sense, is only a small part of perceiving. There are so many things that we can't see but we certainly believe, are there. The Covid 19 virus is a topical example. We recognise its presence by its effects.

For us as Easter people, many generations on from those first resurrection appearances, we do not see outwardly but we trust that he is present with us; and if we live in that faith, insomuch as we *do* live in that faith, we come to experience the reality of his presence for ourselves.

*Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort,
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*