

Matthew 21. 14

⁴The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. ¹⁵But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant.

Each day I try to get out for a walk for an hour or so, in the countryside around Marple, where I live. As I walk through the town lots of widows have coloured rainbows in them, usually drawn and coloured by children who, at the moment, aren't able to be in school.

Earlier this week I walked a different route to normal and noticed that on some of the fences out of the town rainbows had been drawn on fences and children's toys fastened to branches of trees.

The rainbows and the toys are symbols that people want to have hope amidst the current corona virus crisis. Some kind of hope for a future that is without the pandemic, I guess, is what people hope for.

As I walk, I see lots and lots of symbols of hope – the flowers on the daffodils and other plants that are now back in bloom. I see the leaves coming back on the trees. I see grass returning in some of the parks, where a short while ago there was only mud.

I'm quite sure that the blind and the lame, who came to Jesus and were healed, saw in him signs of the Kingdom of God at work in the world, but the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the same thing and were indignant.

Surely our hope, as Christians, is something more than a future without the Coronavirus (although it is definitely that) our hope is in Christ and in his death and resurrection. Our hope is a future Kingdom of God, in which everyone will know the love and grace of God for themselves and for their communities – indeed, for the whole world.

For me, all of these things that I see on my walk, or even from my study window, (where I'm spending a lot more time than usual these days) are signs of the Kingdom of God. I wonder what signs of the kingdom you will see today as you look out of your window, watch the television, or perhaps even go for a walk.

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