

Today's reading Luke 24. 13 – 35 The Road to Emmaus

I've been to 'Emmaus' twice, but to different actual locations. One was in a fairly affluent Israeli village and the other in a rather run down west bank settlement. The contrast could not have been more stark; and it was in the latter that, in the face of the people, rather than in the clergy in the rather nice church grounds, that I felt that I met with Jesus.

But it wasn't in Emmaus, rather it was on the road, that the disciples met the risen Jesus – on the way from Jerusalem to Emmaus – they talked to him for a while, but simply didn't recognise him!

He asked them what was going on and they told him the stories that were doing the rounds. They even told him that some of their friends had been to the tomb that morning and found it empty, and still they didn't recognise him, even though they spoke of seeing angels!

So, the traveller on the road explained to them the scriptures, and how the Christ had to suffer these things before he could enter his glory. And still they didn't understand!

I wonder how often I have met the risen Christ in the ordinary people that I come across and have not really 'seen him' – or perhaps I've seen him, but not 'met him'!

It wasn't until they were sharing their evening meal and he 'broke the bread' with them that, finally, they recognised him. But having 'met with him', they simply had to go and tell their friends 'It's true' – that's the urgency of the resurrection experience, of having truly 'met with Jesus.'

This very odd Easter has, perhaps, forced us to meet with Jesus in different ways from the usual, to experience resurrection differently and perhaps it will compel us to share the urgency of the disciples in proclaiming our risen Lord. Charles Wesley put it like this:

“all you that seek the lord, who died,

...

Go tell the followers of your Lord
Their Jesus is to life restored;
He lives to quicken humankind;
He lives that all his life may find.”