

EDITORIAL
Hope Rising:
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HE IS ALIVE & ACTIVE!

It is not hard for social justice workers to see Jesus in the crucified ones of our world, but do we also perceive the resurrected Jesus in them too?

At this time of the liturgical year we reflect on the strange ‘in between time’ after the resurrection and before the ascension. Jesus is alive and active – not as he was before nor as he would continue to be with us to the end of time.

Jesus drops in on old friends, but they struggle to recognise him. It is him, but he has changed. Did he also visit his mother? The Scriptures offer no clues on this however it seemed so self evident to St Ignatius that he would have done so that Ignatius’ *Spiritual Exercises* encourage us to imagine this meeting (see n 218 – 225 and 299).

My hunch is that Mary would have recognised Jesus instantly. When we love someone and want the good for them we rejoice in their growth and are more apt to recognise points of transformation in their lives.

BEING FABULOUS

John Paul II’s preference for the expression ‘preferential love for the poor’ over ‘option for the poor’ points to a connection deeper than political alignment or economic support. It also hints at a danger of paternalism in attempts to improve the lot of people and communities who are poor or pushed to the margins.

Could it be that in trying to fix things for ‘those poor victims’ we are trying to take Jesus down from the cross? Perhaps our part is less to save people than to stop participating in their crucifixion?

Respecting the human dignity and self determination of those who are economically poor or socially marginalised makes space for the possibility of perceiving the action of the resurrected Jesus in and through their lives.

The many stories of the contributions to our society of people who arrived as asylum seekers, refugees or humanitarian entrants remind us that we should be attentive to the simultaneous presence of the risen Jesus in these crucified people. Just as Jesus is crucified every day, he also rises each day.

Perhaps it is also tempting to see crucifixion in our own lives rather than the image of the resurrected Jesus? Nelson Mandela put it well in his Inauguration Address:

“It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world ... We are born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us ...”

In these post resurrection days, let us be attentive to hope rising like Jesus in the lives of the people and communities around us.

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