

## Ordinary places in extraordinary times

One of the things I find both inspiring and comforting about the resurrection appearances of Jesus is that they often occur in ordinary, everyday places – he comes alongside people who are walking home, into the room where his disciples are meeting, or at the lakeside where his friends are fishing. The reality of the resurrection, an extraordinary event, was to be found in ordinary places.

We are in the midst of an extraordinary event, restricted to our homes and without the comfort of family, friends, or even church services – life is dreary, tedious, frightening.

Due to lock down, many of you will be alone and it's probable you'll have several spare chairs in your sitting room, if you choose, one of those unused chairs could become very extraordinary indeed.

A Jesuit priest, Antony de Mello wrote a meditation entitled 'The Empty Chair' and in it he suggested that we should invite Jesus to come into our homes, and to sit on a chair, just as we would a member of our family or a friend, and take the opportunity to tell him our woes and worries, our joys and our sadness, and then, when we had done so, to pause and listen to what he had to say in response, or just to sit companionably together in quietness. After a time, Jesus would leave, but we knew that, if we chose, he would come and visit us every day, be alongside us and share time with us in our room.

So, invite him into your home, to sit alongside you and have a conversation together; and remember, Jesus likes to be in ordinary places, especially in extraordinary times!

Jesus will meet us where we are until we all meet again!

**Rev'd Sandra Lloyd** (April 2020)

