

Thought for the day – Monday 8th March 2021

By Revd John Marshall

With Burning Hearts.

I have been reading a book by Henri Nouwen, it is a meditation on the Eucharistic life. It is beautifully illustrated with pictures of the road to Emmaus and the house at Emmaus. The meditation considers the disciples who were walking sadly home and they meet the risen Jesus. Who explains the happenings in Jerusalem, while apparently not knowing what happened.

This story is important for us at St James because, of course, the centre of our east window is the meal at Emmaus where Jesus becomes the host.

Henri Nouwen speaks of the Eucharistic life.

“It is so little, so unspectacular, yes, so hidden, this Eucharistic life, but it is like yeast, like a mustard seed, like a smile on a baby’s face. It is what keeps faith, hope and love alive in a world that is constantly on the brink of self-destruction.

The Eucharist, sometimes, is celebrated with great ceremony, in splendid cathedrals and basilicas. But more often it is a “small” event that few people know about. It happens in a living room, a prison cell, an attic – out of sight of the big movements of the world. It happens in secret, without vestments candles or incense. It happens with gestures so imple that outsiders don’t even know it takes place. But big or small, festive or hidden, it is the same event, revealing that life is stronger than death and love, stronger than fear.”

Henri J.M. Nouwen With Burning Hearts Orbis books

I think that our Spiritual Communion fits well into that description.

May God bless you all.

