

Faith in the resurrection.

Human beings are so given to convention. We can play it safe by pretending to go along with a dominant opinion or style. Time will not allow me to go into all the obvious ways this is so. It is certainly so when it comes to “faith” or ‘religion’.

Faith in the resurrection for many is something they are told to believe and not to question. It was and remains something out there in the past and it is only about believing that there was an empty tomb.

There are, however, a few instances in the Christian scriptures of “faith *in* Jesus” being about his identity as the Christ or the Messiah, but as many or more instances occur when he says to people “*your* faith” has worked for you. At those times, it seems as though such people recognize a power that defaults to working the best for human wholeness. Since these events happened before the Christian movement was fully established, it would be dishonest to go on to claim that this sense of “Something else” was the exclusive experience of Christians. Jesus was the one to show that this “Something” was not just a force, but actually personal towards us such that we could say “Father/Mother”. We could move beyond calling things that seemed timely or relevant to particular situations a mere co-incidence; the world of scientists and technologists could go on to build in a world where they could trust the laws that this “Something” had revealed as a result of their curiosity.

In that vein, therefore, the resurrection of Jesus is not and could not be an isolated event. It was not, nor could be the result of last minute thinking by God. It was the crowning moment of a battle waged in life; and it is as much about Jesus then as it is about how we confront life now. It is about an eternal truth of God and what God wants in life. The resurrection of Jesus demonstrates the enduring nature of the good and that it is possible for us to reconnect to that source of good. In practical and personal terms it has meant that many of us have been able to live beyond the many deaths we have experienced in life. In a strange way we find ourselves to be more transformed by it all, perhaps, like Jesus, beyond recognition by those who knew us before.

Jesus lives and transforms, alleluia!