



Dear friends,

It's been called 'the art of precious scars'. The Japanese practice of *Kintsugi* (meaning 'golden-joined' or 'golden repair') is both a technique and a philosophy of life. It involves repairing broken ceramic cups and plates by filling the cracks with gold. Misfortune becomes good fortune as the original item is transformed into a valuable work of art which, rather than hide the scars, highlights them and makes them a feature of newfound beauty.

In the Sunday gospel this week for the Second Sunday of Easter (Jn 20: 19-31), Jesus appears to the disciples in the upper room following his passion, death and resurrection from the dead. The newly-risen divine presence speaks the words that only God can say to a frightened and broken community: "Peace be with you!" There is no finger pointing or shaming from Jesus to the disciples, who abandoned him to die. Rather, his greeting brings the peace, that only, the Prince of Peace can bring to our lives.

Jesus isn't ashamed of his disciples, nor is he ashamed to clearly show them his wounds. The wounds which have destroyed sin and death, and reconciled us to God in an unbounded embrace of love. 'By his wounds you have been healed.' (Peter 2: 25). This same healing takes place eight days later when Jesus appears to the apostle Thomas and invites him to place his hands into his wounds.

For many at this time, when we are unable physically to be able to worship together, and connect with one another because of the Coronavirus, we feel like the disciples frightened, disconnected not clearly knowing what lies ahead. And yet, we also know that Jesus is in our midst, and if we are suffering from our own woundedness, he, is the golden balm, who heals the cracks in our lives and restores us to faith in him, as a loving and merciful Saviour.

As Jesus is the 'wounded healer' in our lives, so he too asks us through faith in him, to practice in our lives the art of *Kintsugi* as a means of restoring our lives through the divine touch.

May I wish you all a happy and blessed Easter 2020, and pray that through the power of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, we may all live as St. Augustine called us to, by recognising: 'We, are an Easter people, and Alleluia! (He is risen) is our song.'

Peace be with you,

Fr Kelvin