

Easter Wednesday 08/04/26

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn once famously said, after several years in the infamous Gulag of Soviet Russia:

*"Gradually it was disclosed to me that the line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor political parties, but through every human heart."*

Although we can map the journey of the two disciples from Jerusalem to Emmaus on the ground, and even compare it to the distance between Bedford and Turvey for example, the map that matters is the journey within their own hearts - indeed we might map the whole of biblical geography and its people onto our own hearts. The distance the men are travelling is spiritual, away from good towards evil, away from belief and hope and love to despair.

*"Reviewing his life, Solzhenitsyn grasped that what he regarded as beneficial 'turned out as actually to be fatal and I had been striving to go in the opposite direction to that which was truly necessary to me'".*

(Gary Saul Morgan, Plough, Spring 2026, page 84)

What gives us hope in this story is that wherever the men go, however far they may travel, although they carry evil in their hearts, they also carry good, that Jesus is willing to accompany them, to keep tugging at their heart strings with the possibility, the opportunity of return, of repentance. It can happen anywhere, at any time, that sharing of bread with a stranger who becomes Christ to us, though we may fail to realise it at the time.

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