

# Encounters - Introduction

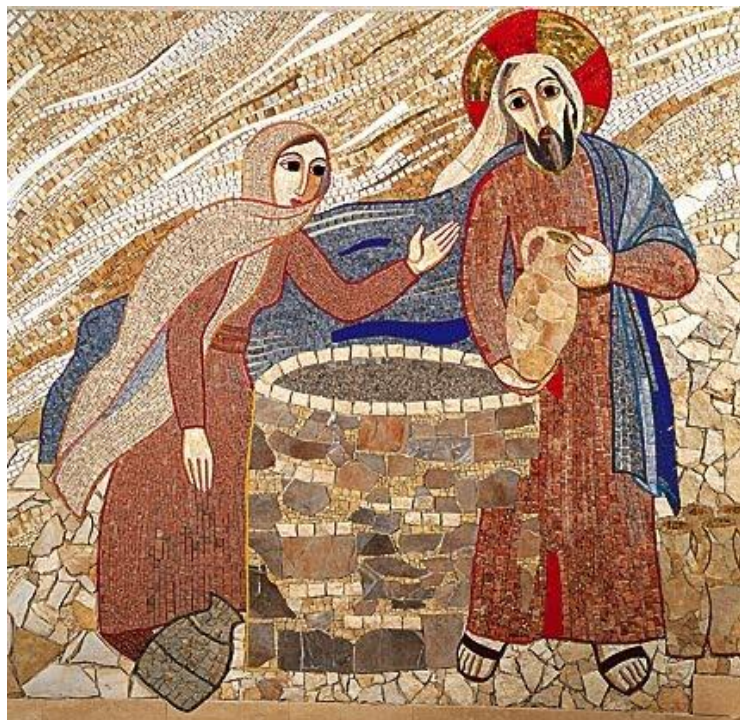
In the following reflections we see Jesus among the people mostly as they engage in the daily tasks and routines of life in that time of history. Some of the encounters are initiated by Jesus. In others Jesus is drawn into the scene by the action or words of another. So it is with us. There are times when someone engages us in an encounter that touches us deeply and we sense the touch of God in that. At other times my reaching out to another holds an unexpected grace for me as well as the other. We are always in partnership with the Spirit and these reflections are to attune us more keenly to the whispers of God echoing through the day if we have the eyes to see and the ears to hear. Remember Gittins' comment in the introduction to the section on discipleship, that we are co-missioned with Jesus. It is hoped that through exploring these encounters we will become more intentional as disciples – see our lives and work as co-creators with the Spirit.

There is a book titled: ***Being Home***\* by Gunilla Norris. In this, Gunilla walks through the house, pauses and writes poetry on the very routine and ordinary tasks of home making and house keeping. In this she names the sacred in the daily. You might like to encourage teachers and support staff to write poetry naming the sacred in the daily rhythm of a school day; to uncover the spirit in the mundane that we so often take for granted. In so doing we are invited to live with greater awareness and intention.

I have tried to choose a variety of encounters. The gospel is full of encounters and stories, parables. It is the medium through which Jesus teaches. So look and listen. Let us really ponder the dynamic relationships through which Jesus is endeavouring to reveal the face and the heart of God. How do I love in the daily? A love that releases and empowers.

In some of the reflections there are numerous resources. Choose those which you think may engage the staff in reflection and conversation. It is much better to do a little well than a lot poorly. And remember to allow time for quiet reflection so that each has the opportunity to listen to the text in the context of her/his life. Encourage people to look at the lessons for today which is such a different culture from the one in which Jesus lived and ministered. But the deep truths which were the essence of his teaching are still relevant in our 21<sup>st</sup> century global culture; maybe more so.

\*This is available on kindle



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