

Something to think about: 22nd Nov 09

Out of the concrete

Sometimes it takes someone else to notice things and to invite you to see them too. Whenever I go to a particular coffee shop (and I go frequently) I try to sit at the same table and in the same seat. I am comfortable in that seat as I can watch the comings and goings as well as have a measure of privacy if I am talking with someone. I visited the same coffee shop with my grandson this week. We were discussing a tricky matter and wondering what we could do. It seemed we were boxed in with no possibility of changing the circumstances leading to our concern. Suddenly my grandson said "Look, look above your head." I did and saw, apparently growing through the concrete walls, a green creeper with a dozen leaves on it. I had not ever noticed it before. We began to consider the metaphor that was offered to us in this *green shoot through concrete* image. I was particularly aware of how my habitual seating plan meant I would have continued to miss the image of hope I was now seeing through the invitation of a young man to turn around look above my head. We became aware that even when things seem hopeless – concreted in so to speak – a green shoot can find its way through the apparent solidity of the walls and offering a glimpse of life and hope. Sometimes it takes the unexpected word from another to open the sight-lines but it also takes willingness from oneself to turn, and look for the seemingly impossible in seemingly impossible places.