

Something to think about: February2010

More from the fig Tree

Jesus offered us lots of insights from nature...lilies of the field and birds of the air, wheat, water and fig trees...Last year I was brought a lesson on assumptions by a fig tree I pass on my daily walk. I have of course continued to watch that fig tree closely, wondering what else it would offer me for reflection. Well, the fig tree has addressed me again. What is it about fig trees I ask myself? After the heavy pruning and rude fluorescent pain I wrote about last year I have been considering the fig tree and wondering what would happen. During spring and early summer I had been on the lookout for blossoms on the tree. I saw none, only a dense greening as the leaves grew on the stark branches softening the iridescent red paint on the cut ends. No flowers equals no fruit to me. Ah well, the pruning was perhaps too brutal after all I concluded. But to my surprise, as summer transitions into autumn, there nestled at the joint of leaf and branch is a swelling green fig! Clearly growth and fruiting can occur unbeknown to us. I had seen no blossom... do fig trees flower? I reflect on how often it is that from the quiet cogitations of the mind, over time and in spaces and places where I find peace, the most creative and well-thought through ideas emerge. Growth doesn't always want pressure or a fanfare or the watchful gaze of another. We cannot always know what is going on out of our sight or beyond our control. But it seems we should never assume that nothing is happening beneath the surface of what we see. Giving time and making peaceful space to think through change may well be gifts we can give ourselves and each other this year.

Susan