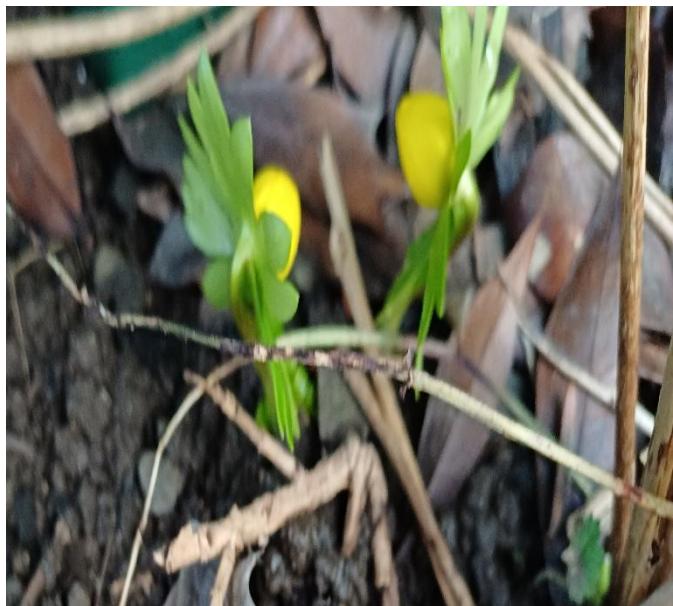


Sign of Contradiction (February 2026)

As I left the house on the 18th of December I saw the first aconites, golden balls of yellow with a green frilly collar pushing up from the dark wintery ground. They brightened my day and **I was thankful to see them flowering so early on a cold winter morning and for the reminder of the wonder, beauty and diversity of creation.** Aconites reminded me of the joyful Christingles we would prepare and light on Christmas Eve to herald in the Christmas Feast and the coming of Jesus among us.



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A couple of days later an email arrived from a friend in Australia containing an image from her lounge window. At first glance I saw a glorious sunset but reading her urgent message I realised she was showing me **a raging forest fire with winds fanning the flames toward them, a life-threatening situation. She asked for my prayers.**

These two “flame” images remained in my thoughts as I celebrated Christmas one brought delight and thankfulness and the other concern and prayerful intercession. **The two flames were signs of contradiction one of joy and the other of fear.**

It was **holding and reflecting on the two images, and I then understood a deeper truth** both were signs of global warming: earlier flowering year by year, unprecedented heat waves resulting in forest fires. Both signs of global warming; our seasons changing.



So, my prayer evolved to one of prophetic invocation and that everyone uses their gifts and talents to care for the earth that sustains all the created order, and for the vulnerable people facing climatic events this coming year.

February begins with the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, of Simeon and Anna’s prophecies, Jesus will be a sign of contradiction. As we turn from our Christmas white to the Lenten season of Penitence beginning on Ash Wednesday, the Cross too, a sign of contradiction. Let us spend time and



reflect with the Signs of Contradiction of our faith and our daily living and pray for those who experience a different life experience to that of our own.

Please use the prayer sheet to journal some of your insights and record your prayers as you highlight the Signs of Contradiction in yellow along the pilgrim way.

I will be praying with you.

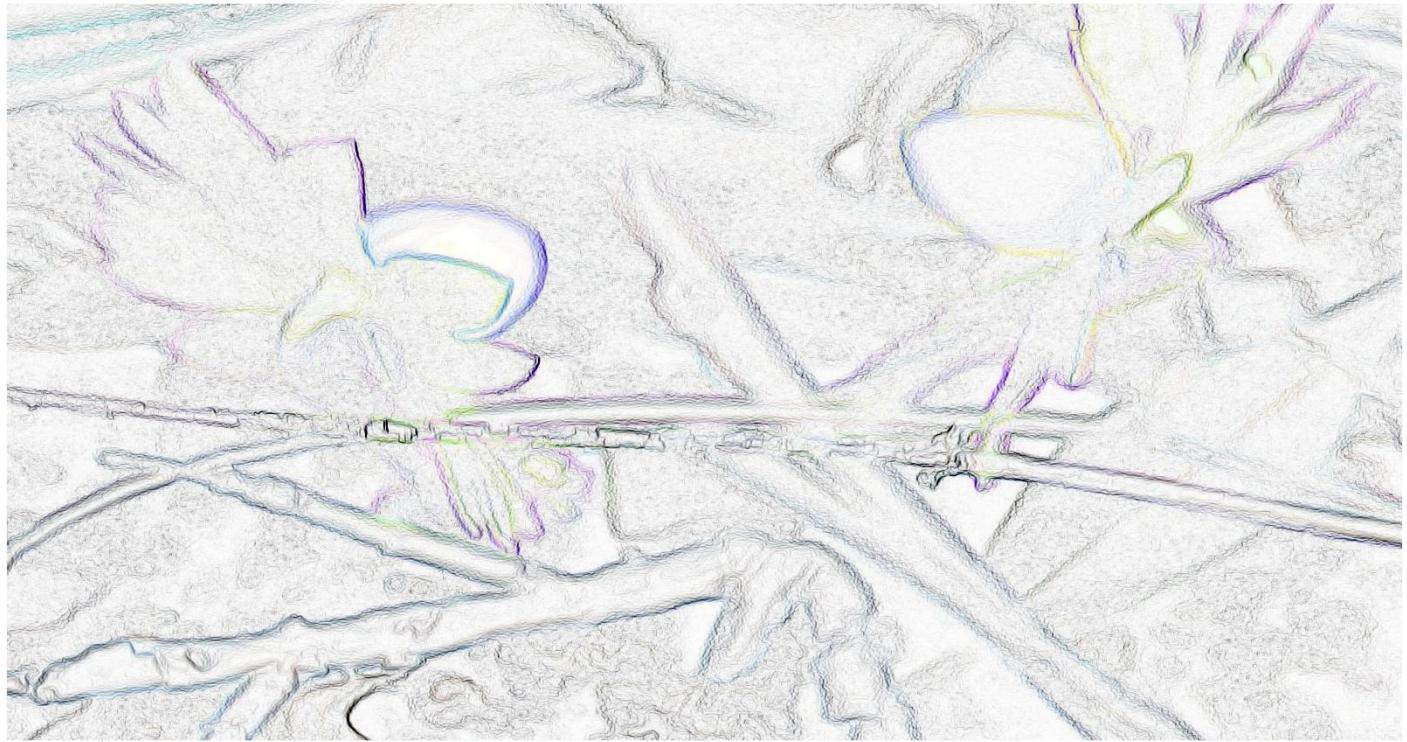
Ann



Simeon's words:

....a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." Lk2:32

"This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed Lk 2:34



My Signs of contradiction and prayers

.....we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1 Cor 1:23-24

