

are scattered throughout each chapter such that the writing never becomes dull or predictable.

One of the strengths of the book is the way in which it is able to hold in tension the paradoxes in which it deals, not through intellectual gymnastics but by means of an embrace of the fullness of what it is to be human and called by God. In Chapter Five: The City/Temptation and Corruption, this is evident in the way in which Thurston identifies the ambiguous status of the Temple with our own compromised religious institutions. Rather than just leaving it there as a gentle challenge, she goes on to consider the realities of human community, concluding: 'Like God's presence and absence in the temple in Jerusalem, in the temple that St Paul asserts that each one of us is, humanity and holiness have each taken up permanent residence. And this is a tension that is life-giving...' (p.59). *The Spiritual Landscape of Mark* manages throughout to encourage deep heart-searching in a gentle, invitational way, with the author as wise guide rather than instructor.

Fittingly, the book ends, like the gospel on which it is based, on an open-ended note, with the words: 'And so, we too, leave the Garden of Resurrection. To do what?'

The book's testimony will be continued in the transformed lives of those who have allowed its narrative to change them. It would make an excellent gift for anyone at any stage of the journey of discipleship, including the bored, the busy and the beginner.

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Thomas Merton Contemplative and Peace-Maker

Fr Ashley Beck

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Reviewed by Fiona Gardner

This small booklet gives an informative and accessible introduction to Merton's life. Divided into chapters beginning with an introduction, the booklet covers Merton's early life; his conversion and entry to the Trappists; Merton the contemplative; Merton the peace-maker, and finally a chapter on his closing years and his death. Apart from a few unfortunate errors this is a helpful guide, and especially ideal to recommend to someone wanting to find out more about Merton and his writings. The booklet points the way to finding out more from the literature and from the ITMS and the TMSGBI.

Fiona Gardner is joint editor of the Merton Journal and a former chair of the Thomas Merton Society.