

Title: *Beyond Us and Them: contemplation and living with enemies in a globalised world*

Tentative description: Both the new nationalisms and populisms and the “enlightened” resistance with relation to them share far more than might seem to be the case. How might the instruction to “Love your enemies” be seen to have real bite in this situation? Is there any sort of contemplative way of living that might be creative rather than merely reactive in the midst of so much loss of a sense of who any of us is?

James Alison, priest, theologian and author is known as one of the interpreters of the thought of René Girard concerning desire and violence in the field of Theology. His most recent work is the course of Introduction to the Christian Faith for adults *Jesus the Forgiving Victim*, and he is the co-editor, along with Wolfgang Palaver, of the forthcoming *Palgrave Handbook of Mimetic Theory and Religion*. Born in London, England, he has lived in South America for much of his adult life, and currently lives in Madrid, Spain.