

Homily. 2nd Sunday of Easter. Year.B. 10/11 April 2021.

The problem Thomas had wasn't so much that he didn't trust Jesus, but that he couldn't accept the testimony of the other disciples. He needed to see things for himself. Today we might describe Thomas as a skeptic. There are many skeptic's in the world today about everything from the 1969 Moon landing, the validity of elections and voting results, through to the causes fo Covid, the purpose behind vaccines and who really is running the country. In short, fake news abounds, news and speculation that readily fills the minds of many with unneeded confusion and doubt.

It was because of his skepticism that Thomas insisted that he would only accept the news of Jesus resurrection if he could personally see and touch Jesus, even into His wounds of His death. On the eighth evening after Resurrection morning Thomas got his wish. However, when Jesus offered to let Thomas put his hands into His wounds he no longer needed to, such was the clarity and reality of Jesus presence.

As is so often the case with skeptics, when they become convinced of a truth and are converted by it they change into passionate of believers. So it was with Thomas. He made the most profound and complete submission of faith in all of the gospels proclaiming Jesus as Lord incarnate in human history and God almighty for all eternity. From this point onwards there was no stopping him. Thomas took himself and the Good-News fo Christ Risen from the dead as far away as India, for it is to St. Thomas that the millions of Catholics in India look with gratitude as their evangelising Apostle.

In this skeptical world and in our cynical times people require more than ever the witness of believers like you and me who can bring to them the words and deeds of the Crucified and Risen Lord. This is a job, better still a mission, for the entire community of believers and not just lone ranger Christians, because together we are more powerful and more credible.

St. Luke in our 2nd reading from his Acts of the Apostles paints a picture for us of what a community of faith formed in the power of the resurrection should look like and be doing; united as one in heart and soul; sharing everything in common; gathered together in worship and prayer while actively and generously giving witness to the Lord Jesus in their words and deeds. These are the ways by which we become the body of Christ present and working in our own time and place, always at the service of the people we encounter and devoted to God's Kingdom and will.

It's through the witness of others that we have become believers. It's the Risen Lord acting in and through others that strengthens our faith today, gradually leading us into the full light of the truth. It's together that this group of disciples becomes the Church of Apostles to those we meet every day wherever we may go. All of this is the work of Holy Spirit within and amongst us; forgiving, healing wounds and making whole. What's more, as it was for St. Thomas, God's Spirit is gently moving all of us from our fixation on death and falsehood deeper into the life of Christ Risen and the light of God's truth! This is our faith, our Easter witness to all who are seeking a new way of living.