

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Acts 2:42-47    1 Peter 1:3-9    John 20:19-31*

On this Second Sunday of Easter the church gives us the story of “*Doubting Thomas*” though he is never called that way in the story.

In St Thomas we meet someone who demanded concrete evidence before he could believe that the risen Jesus had appeared to his fellow apostles.

His story offers some comfort to those of us who are always nagged by doubts.

I have to say that after all Thomas gets a bad press as if he is the only person who did not believe.

- a) Even Mary Magdalene when she first found the empty tomb she did not believe that Jesus was raised from the dead.
- b) Peter too, after seeing the empty tomb nothing registered: he did not believe
  - ❖ As we heard from last week’s Gospel only the unnamed ‘Beloved Disciple’ believed without seeing.
- c) Even the remaining disciples were not that exemplary in their belief of the risen Lord either for they too believed ‘upon seeing’ the Lord not upon hearing.

Rather than pointing fingers to Thomas we should all be waving our flags to him.

Thomas’s obstinacy in not wanting to believe turned out to be good for all the second, third and all future generations of Christians

His obstinacy enabled Jesus to make a lifting up of future generations of Christian: “*Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.*”

Jesus is elevating them and us at an equal footing with the Beloved Disciple.

## DIVINE MERCY

Today, being Divine Mercy Sunday I must say that Thomas’s recovery from his doubts offers a valuable insight into God’s mercy and kindness.

We are sometimes like Thomas:

- indecisive,
- escaping from our families or community,
- sometimes unwilling to listen to others and not at all wanting to promote the faith.

The Lord’s compassion and mercy is here with us.

Perhaps our past failures weigh us down and we are hesitant to try again.

- ❖ God’s compassion and mercy is there to lift us up!

This Divine Mercy Sunday shows us that the Lord himself has power to revive our doubts, our failures.

Even if we shut him out; no locked doors, no locked hearts, can keep him out.

At first, Thomas refused to believe, demanding definite and demonstrable, tangible proof.

Jesus gave him the proof he needed. “*Put your finger here,*” he said, “*and feel my wounds.*”

Because, in the end, Jesus forgives him Judas is enabled to make that most personal faith in Jesus as his Lord and God

In the same way Jesus overlooks our fears and doubts too, and is ready to offer us a fresh start so that we to can profess him as “*My Lord and my God.*”