

Reflection for Saturday 3 July

Today we are keeping the feast of St Thomas, apostle.

St John 20 vs24-29

Thomas was the one who refused to accept the evidence from the other apostles that Jesus had been raised from the dead. He would not do so until he had seen the risen Lord Jesus for himself and seen the holes made in Jesus's hands from the nails and then put in finger into them. He also wanted to place his hand into Jesus's side. Thomas had his doubts about Jesus allayed when eight days later Jesus appeared to him and told Thomas to place his finger into the holes and his hand into his side. But Thomas did not need to do this. On seeing Jesus he realized for himself that Jesus had been raised and made the great acclamation of faith, "My Lord and my God."

Jesus then said to Thomas, "You believe, because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe." We are in that category: we have not seen Jesus in his physical form, but we believe because we experience his living presence with us. He comes to us in the Blessed Sacrament and when we make our confession. Jesus speaks to us in our prayer time and in our Bible reading. Like Thomas we do have our doubts. These come sometimes to test our faith in God. Having them does not mean we are losing our faith. It can mean that God wants to say something to us; we need to pray and listen to what he wants of us. God speaks to us through the circumstances of our lives and through other people. Through doubt our faith can grow stronger We seek God in our doubts and he answers us. Never give up when they happen, but instead ask God what he wants. He only wants the best for us because he made us and loves us. Throughout his spiritual journey Thomas remained a man of great faith. Doubt as well as faith plays a part in our spiritual journey.

St Thomas pray for us.

Roger Watson