

**Reflection** by Fr Michael Tate

Thomas was granted the gift of seeing the Risen Lord bearing the wounds of His crucifixion. Thomas was invited to touch them. Responding, he simply cries out: 'My Lord and my God.'

Thomas does not declare his belief in the Resurrection as such. That was all too apparent. Rather, he declares his faith in the identity of the risen Jesus Christ: 'My Lord and my God.'

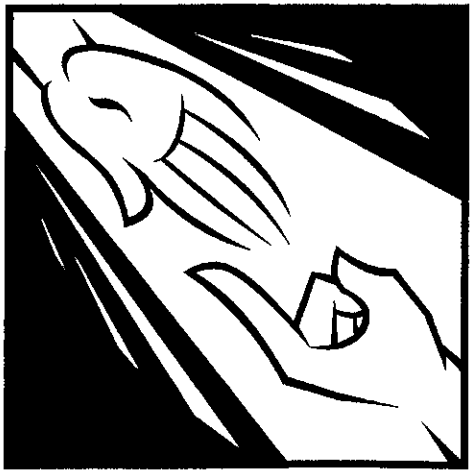
Pope Francis says we can *only* join Thomas in this faith by touching the wounds of Christ. Those wounds are to be found in the body of someone wounded. This can be in a myriad of ways.

We have to bend down and touch those wounds in whatever means of healing is available to us. Otherwise we simply engage in philanthropy at a distance. We end up believing in a semblance of God, but not God embodied in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ always bearing his wounds.

Sometimes we struggle with our faith – after all, it is an astounding claim that Jesus of Nazareth is God embodied for us. You, or any other person intrigued by Jesus, are invited to touch the wounds of Christ and let the patience of God take care of the timing of the response of faith. We could pause for a moment, praying to be counted amongst those who receive the Blessing promised to those who have not seen the Risen Lord as such, but who touch his wounds and proclaim, 'My Lord and my God.'

mtate@bigpond.com

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'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

**First Reading** Acts 2:42-47

The faithful lived together and owned everything in common. The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common: they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 117:2-4, 13-15. 22-24. R. v.1

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

or  
(R.) Alleluia.

1. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.' Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling but the Lord was my helper. The Lord is my strength and my song: he was my saviour. There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

**Second Reading** 1 Pt 1:3-9

He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

**Gospel Acclamation** Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!  
You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;  
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!  
Alleluia!

**Gospel** Jn 20:19-31

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

### A CORONAVIRUS HEALING PRAYER



Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness”. At your command, the sick were made well.

Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare.

In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us. Amen.

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Parish House: 2a Parkside Avenue, East Keilor, Victoria, 3033 • Telephone 03 9337 4141 • Email: keiloreast@cam.org.au Postal Address: PO Box 116, East Keilor, Victoria, 3033

Website: <http://pol.org.au/keiloreast/Home.aspx> •

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Parish-Keilor-East-248965765799277>

YouT ube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZWcZGQRG6o&feature=youtu.be>

### IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### SICK

Margaret McConville

#### RECENTLY DECEASED

Emmanuel Vidal, Rose Coluccio (in New York)

#### ANNIVERSARIES

#### SELF-ISOLATING? OUR PARISH IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU.

If you are a parishioner in need of some assistance with shopping, being taken to appointments etc, please call the Parish Office. We have volunteers who can assist. If you are feeling a bit lonely and would just enjoy a friendly chat over the phone, please let us know. We are here to help where we can.

#### FINANCIAL GIVING DURING THE PANDEMIC

We are grateful that some parishioners have signed up to regular giving via Direct Debit or credit card, or are using Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), for the 1<sup>st</sup> Collection. We are aware not everyone has the technology to do this from home so we also very much appreciate all who are dropping their Presbytery or Thanksgiving envelopes off at the Parish Office. But please, only do this if you feel comfortable in leaving your home. Your health and wellbeing is our main concern. Thank you for your support.

#### CARITAS AUSTRALIA – PROJECT COMPASSION

Thank you for supporting us this year as we demonstrate how love and compassion for our global community can transform lives. You are helping to empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and share their strengths with their communities to lift themselves out of poverty. When we *Go Further Together* in love and compassion, the whole world thrives. Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2020 Lenten appeal.

### ST PETER'S PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL



Phone: 03 9337 4111 Email: [principal@spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Ms Linda Tarraran  
Administration: Ms Belinda McPherson & Mrs Sherrill Johnson

### A Prayer to St Joseph

St Joseph,

You were receptive to God working in your life.  
Help us by your prayers at this time of trial.

You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care: may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in need.

You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers: help us to follow his example of love.

You were part of God's plan for all humanity: assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.

You spent your life in service:  
May we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days.

You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and every situation: help us to grow in faith and pray to the Father, *Thy will be done.*

Amen.