



A Reflection for Second Sunday of Easter Readings - Acts 3. 32-35 & John 20. 19-31

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

The artist invites us to stand with Thomas so that we are the only people who are facing Jesus with the group behind looking on. Thomas physically touches and tests the wounds of the risen Jesus.

Thomas looks into the eyes of the person in front of him as he is invited to prod the wounds of execution. Thomas' face betrays utter bewilderment and contrition.

Thomas falls to his knees as he looks in disbelief at his own hands and fingers. Mortal fingerprints that have touched eternity. Hands that now inform belief and his voice proclaims, 'My Lord and my God!'

At this, Jesus invites Thomas to stand in solidarity as he too now gazes back at us from the painting. As we are the ones facing Jesus and the group of believers that now includes Thomas.

The question asked by Jesus of Thomas is the same question asked of all people for all time. 'Do not doubt but believe.' He is risen!

Thank you for reading and keep safe.

The Reverend Nick Devenish

*Adrian's music choice for Second Sunday of Easter
Fugue in C - J S Bach.*

*If you are able, join me for a service of holy communion from The Priory.
Available from 10.30am. Please go to the Cartmel Priory Facebook or YouTube page.*

Painting - 'The Incredulity of Saint Thomas' by Giovanni Battista Cima da Conegliano