

Subject: Daily Prayer 3rd July 2020
From: Vicky Pacey <vickyreadersapp@gmail.com>
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To: Vicky Pacey <vickyreadersapp@gmail.com>
BCC: kjgreenall@gmail.com

A very good morning to you

Today is the feast day of Thomas the Apostle

Let us take a few moments of quiet and stillness to calm our minds and wait for God.....

St.Francis of Assisi's Prayer before a Crucifix

Most High, glorious God,
enlighten the shadows of my heart,
and grant unto me a right faith,
a certain hope and perfect charity,
sense and understanding.....
In Jesus name. AMEN

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:16-17)

Psalm 31

Prayer and Praise for Deliverance from Enemies

To the leader. A Psalm of David.
In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.
Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.
Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,
take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.
Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

You hate those who pay regard to worthless idols,
but I trust in the LORD.

John 20:24-29

Jesus and Thomas

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.'

Reflection

I must admit to having a sympathy with 'Doubting Thomas'. Is it really fair to come down hard on Thomas?..... I don't think so. Jesus' instruction to believe without seeing, set amidst stories of people believing because of seeing, should make us pause and read a bit deeper. The problem with saying, "Don't worry about seeing, believe no matter what" is that Jesus, over and over again, appears.....to Mary....to the disciples.....to the disciples and Thomas.....and also a while later to the fishermen.

Today we don't actually look for Jesus in the same way as those first disciples did. We may not long to put our hands in Jesus' side, but we long to see signs of God's work in the world today, and we long to see answers to prayer. Really we are not any different to Thomas.

So.....Where do we actually see Jesus? It may seem simple, but it's worth remembering: we see Jesus in the Bible. In the scriptures, God has revealed the word to us and it's through reading, studying, and discussing the Bible that we can see Christ. John writes, "[Those \[signs\] written here have been recorded in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.](#)" Well if those signs have been recorded in the Bible, we should do our part by reading them and meditating on them to reveal God's message. It's also interesting to note that of Jesus' appearances after the resurrection (this includes the fishermen who encountered Jesus on the shore and for whom he cooked breakfast), in all but the appearance to Mary, Jesus appeared to groups, to a gathered community. The verse from Matthew comes to mind, Jesus said, "Whenever two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am also." Though Jesus speaks of those who believe without seeing, he can certainly be seen in communities. Also in that locked upper room, Jesus appeared to the disciples and did not stay long. But he left a parting gift: the blessing of the Holy Spirit. So we, as part of the community of St. Andrew's, are Christ's disciples today. We should look for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we serve the risen Christ. When we read the Bible, we can ask God to send the wisdom of the Holy Spirit to guide us. When we meet in community—especially in the community of the church—we can do so looking for the Holy Spirit moving in our midst. We can pray that the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see anew, and in seeing, that we believe. That we **see** things afresh - from **God's** perspective.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,

the power, and the glory for ever and ever. AMEN

May the bright light of Christ enlighten our hearts,
Shine in our minds and direct us in our ways
and give light to the world.

AMEN

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. AMEN

Blessings and love
Until tomorrow
Vicky x