



Have faith

The interviewer asked Joseph of Arimathea, "Now the grave you lent is yours again. What are you planning to do with it?" Joseph took a long look at him, and then confided, "when I heard that He had risen, naturally I raced to the tomb. He was not there. He had given my tomb back to me. So what I did after that was: I placed a comfortable bench under the trees just opposite the opening of the tomb. In the evening, as the sun is going down, I go and sit there and I think to myself, 'Jesus of Nazareth has slept in this tomb, and what will God do with him?' Jesus had said, "I live and you shall live." I believed in those words.

In today's Gospel we read about the other disciples who have seen the Lord and are convinced but Thomas cannot accept that Jesus who died is now alive. He is caught between fidelity to his inner sense of truth - he who has died cannot be alive - and his tendency to conform and accept the words of others. His sense of inner integrity demands that he does not give just for the sake of peace, yet he does not protest just for the sake of controversy. He knew that Jesus was crucified, and now his friends say that Jesus had visited them. It just did not fit.

Jesus appears to Thomas. During his lifetime Jesus had consistently refused to authenticate himself by marvellous doings, turning stones into bread, taking over power, jumping from the top of the temple, coming down from the cross. But now the risen Jesus volunteers to authenticate himself by showing his wounds. And Thomas is convinced. He is set free to accept the paradox. He says, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus responds, "blessed are those who have not seen but believe."

We all have a desire to experience the extraordinary; miracles and dancing sun, statues shed blood but Jesus is often found in the ordinary. Faith is ultimately in the graceful acceptance of paradox. Let us pray that our faith in the resurrection will help us to accept joyfully of what is apparently contradictory i.e. love instead of hatred; hope instead of despair, light instead of darkness. May Easter brings us freedom and peace.