

Readings Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19; 1 John 2: 1-5; Luke 24: 35-48



Fr Michael says:

Today's Readings give us new heart as we are living in a world which is increasingly challenging and can so easily lead us to react as did the Apostles as the start of today's Gospel! Our Reading from Acts is the earliest explanation we possess of the Passion of Jesus and the reality of His Resurrection – our trust and confidence formed here can empower us to respond to God's love by keeping His Commandments. Jesus is our intercessor when we fail to do so. It is in this perspective that Jesus' coming to His Apostles is their empowerment to proclaim the Good News to all peoples. Through our fidelity in witnessing through life and sharing Jesus' great gift to us of His Peace and Forgiveness we proclaim Jesus, raised from the dead. A thousand questions never make a doubt!

A man was devastated when his father died, but when he looked at him in his coffin, he could not help but notice his hands – so much is seen in little ways. He said: "I will never forget those magnificently weathered old hands. They told the story of a countryman's life in the eloquent language of wrinkles, veins, scars old and new. My father's hands always bore some fresh scratch or cut as adornment, the result of his latest tangle with a scrap of wire, a rusted pipe, a stubborn root. In death they did not disappoint even in that small and valuable particular. It is not given to sons to know everything about their fathers, but I have those hands in my memory to supply evidence of the obligations he met, the sweat he gave, and the honest deeds he performed." They showed the better part of the old man's heart.

If we look at the Gospel in a similar way; the Apostles and we can see what had happened to Jesus, for them and us all – through Thomas last week! Jesus' Risen Body still bears the scars – they help the Apostles to recognise Jesus – He is the same person who was crucified and they are proofs of His love for us.

We can have the same scars in our relations with others, the hurts, the worries and anxieties caused by them – we are touched to our quick and they can leave deep scars! We should not be ashamed of them, they show our love for others – it is up to the others to see and understand them and even if they do not – God certainly will! It is in these ways that we resemble His Son! By touching these wounds we can bring healing, as did Christ to Thomas when he invited him to touch them: their unbelief – the wounds are sources of our hope! We are witnesses to the Resurrection if we can show our wounds share in the peace and forgiveness Jesus offers us. Our wounds are proofs of our love and faith – so let us show them as did Jesus – through them together with Him, we bring healing and new life!