

## Homily 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy 2022

### **St Thomas the Apostle** – Malcolm Guite

We do not know... how can we know the way?"  
Courageous master of the awkward question,  
you spoke the words the others dared not say  
and cut through their evasion and abstraction.  
Oh, doubting Thomas, father of my faith,  
you put your finger on the nub of things.  
We cannot love some disembodied wraith,  
but flesh and blood must be our king of kings.  
Your teaching is to touch, embrace, anoint,  
feel after Him and find Him in the flesh.  
Because He loved your awkward counter-point  
the Word has heard and granted you your wish.  
Oh, place my hands with yours, help me divine  
the wounded God whose wounds are healing mine.

### **Thomas** *(by Christopher Villiers)*

What is this madness? Women's gossip wild,  
swirling in the gutters of our heartache,  
He is dead. Let Him rest in peace, the child,  
picking up the pieces of His sweet mistake.  
He would not learn the world's ways, would not fight  
with its weapons, He could not save Himself  
who wished to save the world, I know right  
He could not save it. I saved myself.  
Of course you saw Him, grief distorts the eyes,  
the waking nightmare built upon our guilt,  
gives false consolation, I feel those lies,  
but not the wounded body's spear-hole's tilt.  
And who might You be? Ah, now I believe,  
My Lord and God! How could my heart deceive?

### **God Cares** Greta Zwaan, © 1981

For many years you walked alone upon this weary road,  
and God saw fit to share with you the burden of your load.  
He did not leave you stranded to fight it on your own,  
but gently claimed your soul one day and seeds of faith were sown.

God's mercy and compassion are greater than we know,  
and e're He gives us burdens, His love He will bestow.  
He set aside a time for you to lean upon His breast,  
in tenderness He watches as you journey through this test.

Dear friend, you're not forgotten, you're precious in His sight,  
the battle for survival alone you do not fight.  
God's method of refining takes many shapes and forms,  
but a multi-coloured rainbow usually follows storms.

Take courage and be faithful, rejoicing in your soul,  
your body may be weakened but your spirit is made whole!

### **William Shakespeare**

The quality of mercy is not strain'd;  
it droppeth as the gentle rain from Heaven  
upon the place beneath: it is twice bless'd;  
it blesseth him that gives, and him that takes:  
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest; it becomes  
the throned monarch better than his crown:  
His sceptre shows the force of temporal power,  
the attribute to awe and majesty,  
wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;  
but mercy is above his sceptred sway;  
it is enthroned in the hearts of kings,  
it is an attribute to God himself;  
and earthly power doth then show likest God's  
when mercy seasons justice.