

Reflection Saturday Easter Week 2023

In *What is the Point of Being a Christian?* Timothy Radcliffe writes that the third Preface for Easter tells us that Jesus is 'still our priest, our advocate who always pleads our cause. Christ is the victim who dies no more, the Lamb once slain who lives forever.' The original Latin is more paradoxical: Jesus is 'agnus qui vivit semper occisus'; the lamb who lives forever slain.' This is Good News for us and for everyone. Timothy reminds us that if the risen Lord did not still have his wounds, then he would not have much reason to continue to help us now. The resurrection might promise us some future healing and eternal life, but it would leave us now alone in our present hurting. But, because of Easter Day, we already share in the victory, Jesus' victory. Jesus still shares our wounds and we share in his victory over death. This means that we too are now wounded and healed. When Brian Pierce OP first went to the Peruvian Andes, he was surprised by the ubiquitous images of the crucified Christ, covered with blood. It seemed as if the faith of these indigenous people stopped prior to the resurrection and they were left only with images of defeat. But he learned that he was wrong. These crosses are signs of how the risen Christ is now sharing *their* crucifixion. We can have courage and risk getting hurt.

Charles Peguy, the French writer, told the story of a man who died and went to heaven. When he met the recording angel he was asked, '*Show me your wounds.*' And he replied, '*Wounds? I have not got any.*' And the angel said, '*Did you never think that anything was worth fighting for?*' The Good News is worth fighting for!