

SUNDAY PLUS

Insight needed

Jesus could have reacted differently to Thomas in today's Gospel. He could have reprimanded him for needing proof or told him his faith should have been stronger.

He doesn't hold back from giving correction at other times. But he doesn't here.

He patiently tells Thomas to touch his wounds. He accepts that Thomas needs proof and that his resurrection isn't the easiest thing to wrap one's head around. Jesus knows just how hard it is to believe sometimes. But he's there to help and encourage, not reprimand and expect us to be further along on our spiritual journey than we are.

He does point out that others don't need proof: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." And whenever I hear that, I pat myself on the back, thinking, "That's me! I've not seen Jesus but I believe!" That's true on one level. But I must admit it might be the opposite: I have seen Jesus and not believed. We are to see Jesus in everyone. But I struggle with this. I may be "seeing" Jesus, but I don't always act like it... so I must not "believe" it.

Krista Nelson is a mum of four, catechist and editor.



Proof required?

By Krista Nelson

Fresco from the great cloister of Santa Maria Novella in Florence.

Lord of my life, be the Lord of my love. ✚ Amen.

Inner sight

By Catherine Pepinster

For decades, people have been fascinated by crime dramas, but nowadays a simple police procedure is not enough: television viewers want to see episodes involving forensic scientists who scour the crime scene for fingerprints, bootprints, DNA, blood and more. This is proof, provided by science, and contemporary society encourages us to think that facts matter more than anything else.

Thomas is rather like the forensic scientists: he wants clearcut evidence. Perhaps he responds like this because he feels left out after not being present when Jesus first appeared to the disciples, or he was naturally cautious. After all, could it really be true that Jesus, who died, might be risen? It takes much more than anything that forensic science can offer to believe that Jesus conquered death: it takes a leap of faith, an openness of heart that takes us beyond all that the material world has to offer to the truth.

Writer, journalist and historian, Catherine Pepinster, a former Editor of The Tablet, is a regular contributor to Redemptorist Publications.

Christianity is not simply a matter of following commandments; it is about living a new life, being in Christ, thinking and acting like Christ; and being transformed by the love of Christ, it is allowing him to take possession of our lives and change them, transform them, to free them from the darkness of evil and sin.

Pope Francis



Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

28-30 April: Jubilee of People with Disabilities

According to the UN, over a billion people in the world, or one in seven, have some form of disability. Of these, more than 100 million are children, who are almost four times more likely to experience violence than non-disabled children.

Pope Francis commented, "We come to realise that we exist as an 'us' and not a 'them' whenever disability, whether temporary or due to natural ageing, affects ourselves or someone for whom we care. Then we begin to look at reality with new eyes and we see the need to break down even those barriers that at first seemed insignificant. Nothing, however, can detract from our certainty that no disability – temporary, acquired or permanent – can change the fact that we are all children of the one Father and enjoy the same dignity. The Lord loves us all with the same tender, fatherly and unconditional love."

Today:
Acts 5:12-16
Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19
John 20:19-31

Monday:
1 Peter 5:5-14
Mark 16:15-20

Tuesday:
Acts 4:32-37
John 3:7b-15

Wednesday:
Acts 5:17-26
John 3:16-21

Thursday:
Acts 5:27-33
John 3:31-36

Friday:
Acts 5:34-42
John 6:1-15

Saturday:
1 Corinthians 15:1-8
John 14:6-14

Next Sunday:
Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19