

Homily (Easter 2A)

During excavations in Egypt during the 1920's, archaeologists found a handful of wheat in a tomb belonging to one of its ancient Kings. The wheat would have been about 5000 years old. Someone decided to plant the grains and, to their amazement, they grew and came to life after all those myriad of years.

My faith in the Resurrection will be like those dormant grains until I come to know Jesus as a real living person who touches my life in the here and now with His reassuring presence. Only then will the latent grains of my faith come to life and bear fruit.

There is an old French proverb which says: 'God often visits us but most of the time we are not at home'. That's what happened to 'doubting Thomas'. Figuratively speaking, we are 'not at home' either if our faith in Him is just book knowledge or if we think that science alone can explain everything there is. Thomas would not believe that Jesus had risen until he'd seen Him in all his physicality. But Jesus gently chides him: *'blessed are those who have not seen but yet believe'*.

However, for the true believer, even though we don't see Jesus in the flesh, we believe He is still with us, as in the Mass for instance. If we don't come to Mass or have never felt the presence of Jesus in our lives then it is so easy for doubts to arise in our hearts - a bit like Thomas the Apostle. We could compare it to someone who has perfected the technique of making bread from following instructions in a cookery book but who has never tasted or eaten the stuff. Here, there is a vital ingredient missing. Knowing about the resurrection and experiencing it in my daily life are two quite different things.

The resurrection has more to do with transformation of the inner man or woman here and now than with scientific data about His life death and resurrection which happened some 2000 years ago. If Jesus were to walk into this church right

now, after all the initial excitement had died down, would there be any guarantee that we would go out and live better lives as a result of seeing Him in the flesh? I doubt it.

I suppose, in the scientific age in which we live, there is a kind of doubting Thomas in all of us who want factual proof of everything before we make a commitment. a cross may often precede a Resurrection as it did for Jesus. The wounds on His Risen body which he showed to Thomas were ample testimony of this.

Thomas wanted to touch the wounds of Jesus. But it is he who is touched when Jesus reveals to him his true identity. Then his doubts and fears begin to subside. As we grow in faith may our doubts concerning the Risen Lord recede as well.