

Saint Thomas Friday 3 July



About Saint Thomas

Saint Thomas is also known as “the Twin” (John 11:16) and was one of the Twelve Apostles. He is remembered for doubting the Resurrection of Christ:

“Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.”

A week later, Thomas was with the other ten Apostles when Jesus appeared and said: “Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.”

After seeing the Risen Christ Thomas exclaimed: “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus said to Thomas: “You believe because you can see me.
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

According to tradition, Thomas is the only Apostle who went beyond the borders of the Roman Empire to proclaim the Gospel. The people of Kerala in South India strongly believe that it was Thomas who evangelized them. He is the patron of architects and builders, and of India. (Please see the map on the next page.)

What can we learn from Saint Thomas' life?

Thomas is noted for two things: his doubt and then for his proclamation of faith after seeing the Risen Christ. We now have the saying when someone doesn't believe us “you are a doubting Thomas”.

There are both aspects of Thomas in each of us. There are those times where we don't believe until we have seen things for ourselves. We try to explain things to people or they try to explain them to us and either we or they don't understand. Sometimes they get the idea in time and other times it is too late.

Thomas made up for his lack of faith and proclaimed the Risen Christ as God.

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Perhaps without realizing it we are in today's Gospel story, because we are the people who have not had the privilege of seeing Jesus on earth and yet with faith and trust in Him, we believe.

Quote: "My Lord and my God!"

A Map of India

Tradition tells us that Saint Thomas travelled to the province of Kerala, in the south-western corner of the country.



Collect

Grant, almighty God,
that we may glory in the Feast of the blessed Apostle Thomas,
so that we may always be sustained by his intercession
and, believing, may have life in the name of Jesus Christ your Son,
whom Thomas acknowledged as the Lord.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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Gospel John 20:24-29

'My Lord and my God!'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

When the disciples said,
'We have seen the Lord',
he answered,

'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands
and can put my finger into the holes they made,
and unless I can put my hand into his side,
I refuse to believe.'

Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them.
The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them.

'Peace be with you' he said.

Then he spoke to Thomas,

'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands.

Give me your hand; put it into my side.

Doubt no longer but believe.'

Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!'

Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

Antiphon

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails,
and do not be unbelieving but believing.

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Hymn for the Feast of Saint Thomas

1. O Lord you called Thomas 'the Twin'
to be one who would follow You,
yet fear and doubt would play their part
daily in his life, through and through.

2. "Unless I can see all the holes
the nails have made in your hands Lord,
I won't believe what I've been told,
until Christ Risen, speaks His Word."

3. "O Thomas look and see the holes
and put your hand into my side.
No more must you doubt – but believe.
In the peace I give please abide."

4. Like Thomas, Lord, may we proclaim
Your sacred Word beyond our shore,
so that your Gospel may be heard
and Your fold will grow more and more.

88.88 LM

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono

Music Links to the Scripture Readings

[We Walk by Faith](#) - Marty Haugen

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