



Second Sunday of Easter

In the 2000yr history of the Church, there are a number of outstanding saints with the first name, Thomas. Two of them are definitely Thomas Aquinas, a Dominican Spanish priest-scholar who lived in the 1200's. The other was the courageous lawyer-chancellor Thomas More who lived mainly in the 1500's who was beheaded for defending the Pope against King Henry VIII. It would be of interest to know if both men were named after Thomas the apostle.

I think that Thomas the Apostle is often misunderstood. First of all, he didn't doubt that it was possible that his friend and leader, Jesus of Nazareth could rise from the dead.

The mistake that Thomas did make was to be absent from his group and because of this he deprived himself of an extraordinary revelation. So many good things happen to people when they are in community, whether it's a religious, political, sport or family community.

When the risen wounded Jesus appeared a second time, Thomas was present and was given the extraordinary privilege of touching the Lord's wounds. His faith was complete when he proclaimed the words – *'My Lord and my God.'*

Church tradition has it that Thomas was the first Christian missionary to India where he died a martyr. No doubt the memory of seeing the resurrected Jesus sustained him amidst life's many challenges. The same faith can also sustain us!