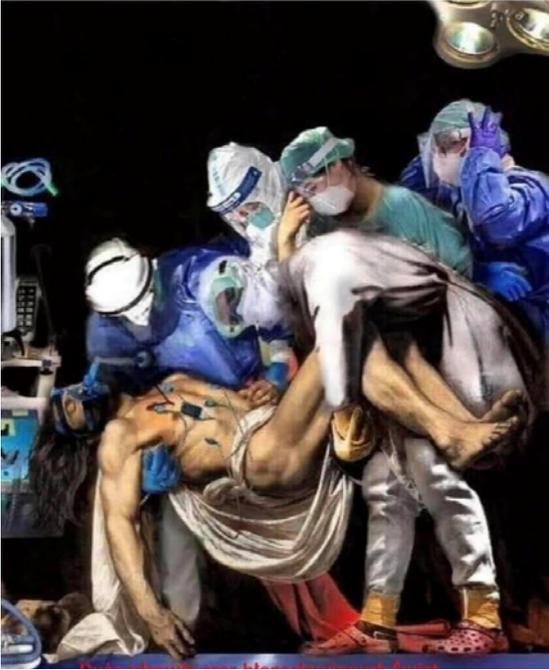


Dear Brothers and Sisters



'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe'

The words of Thomas are spoken on that first Easter Sunday. He was not present when Jesus, risen from the dead, appeared to the other disciples in the Upper Room.

Where was he? The Gospels do not say, but he was not present in the assembly of the faithful.

We also will be absent Sunday, as we continue our social distancing, dispensed from physically attending Mass.

Thomas' absence was his own doing, it led him to fear and doubt.

Our absence is no fault of our own, it can lead us to hope and belief.

Where was Thomas that Easter Sunday? He was not in lockdown, he was not avoiding a virus, he wasn't doing his part to battle a pandemic. He was socially distant for other reasons. He had better things to do.

Our distance from one another this Easter Sunday has made us aware that there is nothing we would rather be doing. We are missing Mass - the encounter with the Risen Christ in the celebration of the Eucharist - through no fault of our own. Unable to gather on Sunday, we have renewed appreciation of the liturgy. The pandemic has helped us to appreciate that every Sunday is an experience of Easter, of the Resurrection; it is an encounter with the Risen Christ.

The disciples were not on lockdown, but they were closed up in the room with the doors locked. Yet the Risen Christ appears in their midst.

We are on lockdown, but the Risen Christ will appear in our midst. The Risen Christ is in your house. This Sunday we will experience the hope and faith that he gives to us.

As you join us for the live-streamed Mass this Sunday, know that the same Christ who appeared to the disciples on Easter Sunday, appears to you.

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. After the Masses, we will live-stream the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00pm.

Happy Easter. Christ is Risen. He is Truly Risen. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Fr. Sean