



**Vox Populi**  
03 July 2024

Today, 3 July, is the Feast Day of St Thomas the Apostle. Little is really known about Thomas's background however he is probably best known for being "the doubting Apostle" - having initially doubted the Resurrection of Jesus and for demanding physical proof of the wounds of Christ's Crucifixion.

A Jew, probably born in Galilee, Thomas is named as one of the twelve Apostles in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, and also in the Acts of the Apostles. It is only in the Gospel of John that he first speaks and plays a particularly distinctive role. When Jesus announces he is going to Jerusalem, it is Thomas who says, "Let us go and die with him."

Thomas is often condemned for his lack of belief, but Thomas was equally courageous and willing to stand by Jesus in dangerous times. He also relentlessly sought the Truth, asking many questions.

Thomas was absent from the Upper Room the first time Jesus appeared to the other Apostles after His Resurrection.

When they told Thomas they had seen the Lord, Thomas replied, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails, and my hand in his side, I will not believe." (John 20:24)

John tells us it was a week later that the Lord appeared to the disciples again and Thomas was with them. Jesus invited him to touch his wounds saying; "Do not doubt but believe."

It is then we hear of Thomas's wonderful profession of faith and declaration of Jesus' divinity when he says; " My Lord and my God!"

John writes that Jesus then said to Thomas; "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Many may interpret Thomas's actions as that of a sceptic who demands scientific, visible proof. However, Thomas was a messenger of belief who became a witness to the reality of the Resurrection.

Strengthened by faith, we are also invited to become living witnesses in our own way to the reality of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.