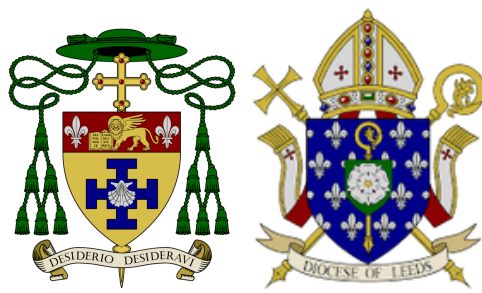


Tomb to Mission

A journey from Easter to Pentecost



FIFTH SUNDAY

I am the way, the truth and the life.

John 14:5

This is the Last Supper. Jesus has only a short time left with his disciples, so what he does and says is especially important. Jesus washes his disciples' feet:

For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.

And he teaches them in a passage often used when we celebrate a funeral because it begins, *'Let not your hearts be troubled'*.

But it is Thomas' question which is most relevant to us. How can we know the way forward? This is the same Thomas we often call 'Doubting Thomas' but, perhaps, he is simply the one who really wants to know and the only one who dares to ask. We can learn from him.

Jesus replies in a way that is familiar yet seems mysterious:

I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

The 'I am' – as it should in John's gospel – reminds us that Jesus is God.² We follow Jesus because he is 'the way'. The earliest Christians called themselves 'Followers of the Way'.

Only by following Jesus do we discover Truth and find Life. These are not abstract ideas: they are **realities**. Imagine a world without Truth and without Life. It would be nothing. It would be dead.

When he taught in Athens, Saint Paul said that people,

"... should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way towards him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for in Him we live and move and have our being."

As Jesus' followers we are called not just to share in the Life of the Resurrection ourselves but to share it with all others. Saint Francis even preached to the birds, so we should have no limits!

#GospelReflection