

Thomas called the twin cannot believe it

Many of the apostles cannot believe it

Touch and see

Doubt no longer but believe.

There it is right in front of you

Doubt no longer but believe

The Christian faith is fundamentally a belief in life and not death

It is a culture of interaction, hope and vitality

Expressed in prayer and in active life

Seen not as a part but as the whole of life.

So the fact that I can't go at the moment to a field just on the edge of Burnley, where Lowerhouse play cricket on a Sunday afternoon is inhibiting my joy, my faith.

The fact that Wigan Rugby league have cancelled all fixtures, and my friends do not drive me to the ground, to roar with the crowd. This is isolating me from glorious madness

The fact that when I wake in the morning and turn on the radio for a sports report, and all I hear is the slow grind of serious analysis, and not the celebration of excellence. This makes my heart sad.

When it was there in front of me I could not believe how good it was

Many took it for granted

We could touch and see

We need not have doubted its value but believed.

So the fact that the children can only wave through the window, and grandparents cannot just observe their days. This is stealing their joy.

The fact that at home some families are realising they did not need to be so busy. That lots of things do not matter. This is undermining their preconception.

The fact that many are poorer than before the lockdown, but they are learning to manage. This questions why they spent so much energy, on what they did not need.

When it was there filling their day they could not believe it was unnecessary

They took it for granted

They could touch and see

They need not have doubted what was of real value, but refused to believe the truth

So the fact that I celebrate mass in a church where I have only the image of the saints, and the promise of the people at home, to accompany me is challenging my faith

In fact that I have realised how weak I am before circumstances. This has taught me something of the true value of what little I can do.

The fact that each second, and breath, that I have is pure gift. To be used. This struggles with the temptation of stepping into boredom and sleep

When I did not have these challenges I was so smug about what I believed

I took so much of the role for granted

Each day I could have touched and seen so much more

But mankind can only bear so much reality

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Seen not as a part but as the whole of life.

But just like the Apostles

the risen Christ is stood there before us

And we see

Only what we have trained our lives to see

This is a cruel time

Use it to see beyond your preconceptions