

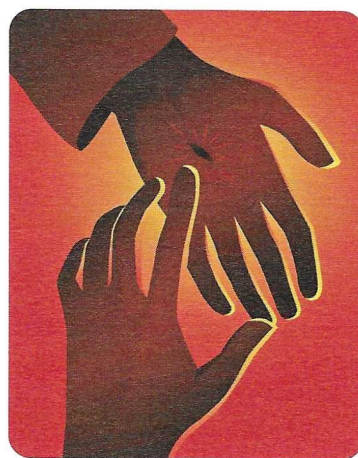
Dear Padre,

I am very curious why, after his resurrection, Jesus told Mary Magdalene not to touch him, but in the upper room, Thomas was encouraged to touch him.

Saint John tells us of this incident between Mary and the risen Jesus. There are scholars who say that immediately after Jesus spoke to Mary he ascended to heaven. His encounter with Thomas, then, would be after the ascension, and the feast of the Ascension we celebrate forty days after Easter is simply a termination of Jesus' earthly appearances.

There is another explanation to consider, offered by other Scripture scholars. The word Jesus uses to tell Mary Magdalene not to touch him is more like "cling" to him. She cannot *cling* to her old relationship with Jesus. Since his resurrection, a new relationship is necessary. Mary was looking for the Jesus she knew before the passion, not the Jesus of the resurrection. She must now come to know the risen Jesus.

Mary could not cling to Jesus because she had to see him in a new way. For Thomas, the situation is different. Jesus invites Thomas to place his hand on the wounds to prove that he is "real"—that he is really a new kind of being, a resurrected being. Thomas, in his way, also wants to cling to what he thought he knew about Jesus. Both he and Mary Magdalene were close to Jesus, but even so, there were things they still did not understand. Jesus always has the ability to surprise us. ●



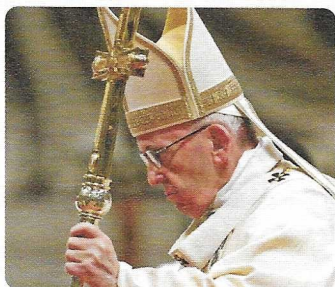
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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
April 17	April 18	April 19	April 20	April 21	April 22	April 23
Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:23–31	Acts 4:32–37	Acts 5:17–26	Acts 5:27–33	Acts 5:34–42	Acts 6:1–7	Acts 2:14, 22–28
Jn 3:1–8	Jn 3:7b–15	Jn 3:16–21	Jn 3:31–36	Jn 6:1–15	Jn 6:16–21	1 Pt 1:17–21 Lk 24:13–35



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Don't be afraid of doubts, because they are not a sign of the lack of faith....On the contrary, doubts are "vitamins of faith": they help strengthen faith and make it more robust. They enable faith to grow, to become more conscious, free and mature. They make it more eager to set out, to persevere with humility, day after day.

MEETING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, ATHENS, DECEMBER 6, 2021