

WEEKLY SERMON

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Scars of hope for eternal life

Recently I had an accident.

It was my own stupid fault.

I was working in the kitchen preparing some food and decided it would be a great idea to use a kitchen knife to separate two items of frozen food.

You can guess the rest ... I ended up driving a sharp blade right into the palm of my hand.

My first reaction was one of shock ... before natural preservation took over and, before long, I was in the A&E being treated for a suspected severed nerve to my ring finger.

I had to have an operation on my hand but, thankfully, it turned out my nerve, while badly damaged, was not severed; so I will recover quicker than expected.

While waiting for my operation I looked at my hand and the puncture wound in it several times and reflected that Jesus had received a much more painful wound in BOTH his hands and also to his feet when he was nailed to the cross by Roman soldiers.

The pain I suffered (at my own hands of course) was minuscule compared to the pain and suffering of Jesus on that dark day long ago. The deeply horrific way in which Jesus died cannot be overstated.

And he did so for you and for me and for our sins.

As I heal, I will be left with a scar on my hand from my initial puncture wound and the subsequent operation.

It will be a reminder of a painful experience, as well as a reminder to all of the importance of being careful with knives – whatever your age!

Jesus had multiple scars after His resurrection. But Jesus' scars were not so much a reminder of his pain; rather they were a sign of hope for all mankind. The hope of eternal life.

- If you want to know more about Jesus' sacrifice for YOU, [visit this page](#) of our Diocesan website.

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HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES