



Church of the Holy Family
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My Dear Parishioners of Holy Family, Sisters and Brothers in Christ, Friends,

On behalf of Fr Stanley and Fr Alphonsus, I wish you a Blessed and Happy Easter. May the Risen Jesus fill you and your respective families with Peace and Hope, Faith and Love, Joy and eagerness, to be a persevering witness of his resurrection.

The way we celebrate Easter this year is very different as we keep on battling this Covid-19 pandemic that is sweeping the world. But the occasion will not be blotted out.

The key is our attitude, faith and perspective.

When we believe that Jesus is in control, and when we trust Him for our daily needs, it's much easier to be positive, i.e. to be an Easter People with Alleluia our continuous refrain and way of life!

Our minds will be able to be at rest, our stress all driven away, as we trust in Jesus who by his resurrection has conquered death and restored life!

Easter deserves our attention. If Jesus has conquered death and the grave, surely he can conquer this pandemic and its terrible consequences. As long as we are fixed and rooted in the risen Jesus, i.e. being continuously conscious and intentional about our Christian faith and way of life, this Easter can be for us an experience of deep transformation and praise.

As we celebrate Easter, we announce that Jesus of Nazareth is risen. The happy truth, which Jesus wants us to feel in the soul, is that we are not born to die but to live, that death is only the last and dramatic door to cross and that he accompanies us in this adventure.

As we celebrate Easter, we announce a message of hope. We announce the fact that the God who came among us rose from the death we inflicted on him. He liberates our hearts from the sadness of death.

Christ, dead and risen, is the reason for the hope that overcomes the sadness of the world.

Therefore, He is the reason for every new beginning.

With joy, mixed with fear and pain because of the serious pandemic that is still affecting humanity, let us celebrate Easter not as a simple commemoration of a past event, but as a participation in the mystery of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection.

It is no longer just the Head who must lie down on the cross and then get up from the grave. It is also his body, the Church, with all its members represented by each one of us.

It is we who must share this passion in order to be able to share his resurrection.

Easter teaches us that the Christian in the Church must die with Christ to resurrect with him.

As we celebrate Easter, we not only remember the Resurrection but make it present in the joy born from our personal encounter with the Risen Lord.

We can experience Easter in one of two ways: the establishment of an objective fact; or the acceptance in faith. It is not enough to just have the facts. We must believe. That belief is deepened in our personal relationship with the risen Jesus, the Lord of our life. That will make the difference in the way we live and witness to Jesus.

The Gospel narrative (Jn 20:1-9) in the Liturgy of Easter Sunday underscores the importance of this personal encounter.

Mary of Magdala runs to the tomb at the crack of dawn, finds it empty and thinks that the body of Jesus has been stolen.

Peter noted that the tomb was empty. This is not an insignificant notice. Noting that Jesus' tomb was inexplicably empty, testifies the objective fact of faith. If the body of Jesus had been stolen, all the linen would have been left messed up. But no! All the burial cloths were neatly folded and wrapped and placed in a specific place.

Peter finds the objective fact that the tomb is empty, and it is not a theft.

But the other disciple, Jesus' friend, the one whom Jesus loved, the one who had a deep personal relationship with Jesus, seeing the same things, believes that Jesus has risen.

The Resurrection is not a theory but an encounter with the risen Jesus.

The Resurrection of Jesus is God's yes to Christ and to us, because resurrecting the man Jesus, God has resurrected humanity and has recreated a new heaven and a new earth.

What does Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus mean to us in our personal life, in our family relationships, in the way we are in our respective workplaces, in our Neighbourhood Christian Communities, in our society, and in the larger world in which we live?

To help us I would like to end with the words of St Paul in Colossians 3:1-4 which I hope will help all of us reconfigure our life to that of Christ:

“Since you have brought back to true life in Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.”

Have a truly Meaningful and Fruitful Easter! God Bless you all!

Fr Eugene Vaz