

Easter Message - Fr. Arulkumar

'This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad' - Psalm 118

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

Wish you all a Happy and Blessed Easter! May the Risen Lord dispel the darkness and bring more light and hope in our lives!

Today we celebrate the Easter Sunday. Easter is the greatest and the most important feast in the Church. **It marks the birthday of our eternal hope.** We celebrate it with pride and jubilation for **3 reasons.**

1. The Resurrection of Christ is the basis of our Christian Faith. It is the greatest of the miracles, for it proves that Jesus is God. That is why **St. Paul writes: 'If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain; and your faith is in vain' (I Cor 15: 14).** The resurrection of Christ is the basis of our Christian faith.

There is a story of two women who stood before **Notre Dame Cathedral** in Paris. One asked, '**Why can't we build structures like this anymore?**' Her friend answered, '**The people who built this had Faith. Today we have only opinions. And you can't build a cathedral with opinions**'. Today we need to think about how strong we are in our Christian faith!

2. Easter is the guarantee of our own resurrection. Jesus assured Martha at the tomb of Lazarus: '**I am the Resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me will live even though he dies**' (**Jn 11:25-26**). Today Jesus proves His Statement and gives hope for our eternal life by His resurrection.

3. Easter is a feast which gives us hope and encouragement in this world of pain, sorrows and tears. **It reminds us that life is worth living.** It gives strength to fight against temptations and freedom from unnecessary worries and fears.

Easter gives us the joyful message that we are a 'Resurrection people'. It means that we are called to live a joyful and peaceful life, **constantly experiencing the living presence of the Risen Lord in all the events of our lives.**

The Risen Lord's presence should help us to **control our thoughts, desires, words and behavior.** It should help us to respect and render loving and selfless service to others. **For the true Christian, every day must be an Easter Day lived joyfully in the close company of the Risen Lord.**

Easter reminds us that every Good Friday in our lives will have an Easter Sunday and that Jesus will let us share the power of his Resurrection.

Each time we display our love of others, we share in the Resurrection.

Each time we face a betrayal of trust and with God's grace, forgive the betrayer, **we share in the Resurrection of Jesus.**

Each time we fail in our attempts to ward off temptations - but keep on trying to overcome them - **we share in the Resurrection.**

Each time we continue to hope - even when our hope seems unanswered - **we share in the power of Jesus' Resurrection.**

In short, the message of Easter is that nothing can destroy us - not pain, sin, rejection, betrayal or death - **because Christ has conquered all these.**

We, too, can conquer them if we put our Faith and trust in Him.

Let us ask God's grace to be the people of Resurrection and render loving and selfless service to others.

Rest assured of my daily prayers and a memento in my Holy Mass for you dear people of God. Patience and Trust in the Divine Mercy alone are needed now. May Our BVM protect us!

Wish you all once again a Happy Easter. God Bless you all!

Yours in Christ

Fr. Arulkumar, April 12, 2020