



Easter Sunday 2020 – Homily

With great gusto we can shout and proclaim, ‘He is Risen and Alleluia is our song.’ This has been an often used phrase, joyfully announcing the Lord Jesus to the world, used by many Christians, especially those caught in a wonderfully free and personal relationship with The Lord, for they wanted all People to come to know and believe in The Lord.

This sense of joy in The Risen Lord proclaimed first by Mary Magdalene to the Apostles, who then themselves in turn go out to the nations to share such great joy, *although Peter, initially, is a bit reluctant to go beyond the Children of Israel with this message, unlike Paul, for once he has come to belief, is off and away, to tell all who will listen to him about the power of the Risen Lord to bring about Forgiveness, Healing, Reconciliation, Unity and Peace for ALL*, a joy that allows us to live Life to the Full, for now we are no longer bound by sin or death, for now we have been brought back to True Life with Christ, and as Paul continues to remind us in his Letter to the Colossians, ‘you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is...your thoughts must be on Heavenly things, not on things on the earth.’ **Do we believe this?**

Paul is calling us into belief, a belief in the victory and triumph of Christ the Risen Lord – Jesus Christ the God-Man is the corner stone of all that is possible in our lives – we no longer need to rely on the temporary things of this world to bring us to wholeness, for we have the Source of all Wholeness living amongst us, we have Jesus Christ The Risen Lord, who died for us and rose again, now watching and caring for us from the Throne at the right hand of God. **Do we believe this?**

During the last couple of weeks of the Lenten Gospel narratives we hear, ‘and many came to believe in Him,’ *although many walked away from Him, because of His intolerable teaching!* And notice, they came to believe in Him before the Truth of His Passion, Death and Resurrection! We as the Easter People have had the whole story now presented to us for two millennia, but we too are called in the same way to take that step of belief in the Lord, in the all-conquering and Risen Lord – The Lord the Giver of Life. **Do we believe this?**

Across the world over the last few months there has been a great burden, a great fear and anxiety, a paralysis of movement, many deaths and many exhausted medical staff and carers and yet, there have been even more resurrections, many more revelations of Christ in the world – the sheer self-sacrificing and self-giving of so many people prepared to go beyond themselves, to die to one-self, in order to bring hope and life to others has been truly the Light in the darkness of this whole pandemic. Where is Christ? Christ is in the medical staff, Christ is in the carers, Christ is in the local social actions groups, Christ is in the food and resource distributors, Christ is in the teachers and school staff, Christ is in the home-schooling parents, Christ is next to those isolated and dying who are not allowed to have anyone next to them due to fears of contagion, Christ is with the grieving parents and hurting families and family members who are grieving at not seeing or holding their grandchildren – we could go on. Christ is in the outpouring of so many beautiful and profound messages of Christian hope on the internet, bringing people closer to God and deeper into a more spiritual and personal relationship with Christ – Christ’s Cross and Resurrection are next to those in need – **Do we Believe this?**

Can we, with great gusto shout and proclaim, ‘He is Risen and Alleluia is our song’? Can we bring to light the Risen Lord to those in need in these next few days, weeks, months. Can we like Mary Magdalen, Peter and Paul share the Truth of our Belief that God in Jesus Christ has and will make all things well. **Do we believe this?**