

EASTER 2014

**2ND SUNDAY OF
EASTER
APRIL 27**



THE FIFTY DAYS OF EASTER

The center of our faith is the death, resurrection of Jesus and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Pentecost. We want to be recaptured by the great mystery of the incarnation of Jesus Christ.

The best thing that has happened to our understanding of Easter is that Jesus actually rose from the dead on a particular night. But this is not just a historical event from the past.

The resurrection must always be a 'now' event in the life of the believer and the life of the church. We celebrate the revelation of the very Son of God among us, today! He is Risen! Yes, he is risen among us.

This profound breakthrough is something that we are challenged to live and make present today.

Always think of the life and mission of Jesus like a piece of sheet music. It does not matter if you have the original manuscript of something that Beethoven or Mozart wrote. The manuscript that you hold in your hand is very valuable as a piece of history. But as a piece of music is only has value when it is actually played. The music on the paper

must become the music of the artist. Use your memory here and remember a time when you enjoyed the musician who took a sheet of music and made it come alive. And here you are in enjoying the musician playing this beautiful piece of music! Only when the music is played is it real!

The Resurrection of Jesus must come to life in your life, in your parish church and in the world with all its sufferings.

It is never sufficient to think of the Resurrection of Jesus written on the pages of your Bible. It must be touched and experienced by you in your daily life.

The Lord must be risen in your prayer, your life of service and compassion.

EASTER IN US



One of the great weaknesses of our Christian Churches is the incomplete sense we have that we are to be the continuation, the extension, of the Risen Christ. Take the teachings our the Resurrection of Jesus and apply it to the lives of your fellow believers. How do they manifest Christ to the world?

THE RESURRECTION IS ALWAYS A SURPRISE

After the terrible destruction of Jesus his followers were very despondent. Everything had fallen apart. Their hopes for a new Israel were crushed. Always stand with the followers of Jesus who were so down after the execution of Jesus with such a shameful death. He was rejected and unwanted. They were rejected and unwanted. He was the laughing stock of the people who had power in that society. Where could they go but back home and try to pick up their lives once again?

Now, to their utter surprise news begins to circulate very quickly that he is alive. This news is a complete shock to everyone. He is risen! He is among us!

But this is not the physical Jesus who has returned to life. This is not

the dead come back to life again. This is no reanimation.

Resurrection is the complete and radical revelation of the very Son of God. All things are new. God has been given to us in a way that we could never have expected. We can know and life with the very Son of God in the resurrected Jesus.

The resurrection of Jesus is the revelation of God. We always link the death and the resurrection together. It is out of the suffering, the self-surrender of Jesus that God has been given and shared with us.

The mystery of Jesus was never meant to be a wonderful experience of Jesus but was meant to be shared and lived in the world. The resurrected Jesus must be a 'now' event. The Lord must be lived and risen in our own lives.



May he be
risen in your
good deeds

WHAT THE RESURRECTION TEACHES US

On the second Sunday of the Easter season we always hear of the appearance of the risen Jesus in the midst of the disciples. They certainly were not planning to receive him. They had gathered together for protection from the Jewish authorities. They were afraid.

The first words that he speaks is: "Peace be with you." What this means is the harmony, the faithfulness that can exist between humans and God. Peace is living the communion, the understanding of doing the will of God, that Jesus has come to bring about with the human race.

This is the time when humans will treat each other and value each other as God values us. People will see in the eyes of the neighbor what God sees in the eyes of that person.

Then he shows them his hand and his side. This is a very significant detail. The risen Christ always carries within himself the very wounds of the cross. His humanity is fully contained in this divinity. You can never separate the humanity from the revelation of his divinity.

Look at the Easter Candle (the sign of the Risen Christ as light of the world). It has five pins (colored red) which symbolize that the Risen Christ always has the five wounds.

We must not limit this only to the sufferings of Jesus on the cross. The risen Christ carries out wound in his life and heart.

As you reflect on the mystery of the risen Christ join the sufferings of the people of the Church to the wounds of the risen Christ. Do not be surprised if you discover that the resurrection has more meaning for you this year as you join the struggles of this life with the victory of the Resurrection.



May
the risen
Christ be
present in
hands

EASTER IN US



The risen Christ is most apparent when we reach out to the poor with their many faces. Be the sign of the Risen Christ when you visit your aged aunt in the nursing home. She does not know you anymore but you are there to be the warmth of human kindness. As simple and as quiet at this visit might be, there is the spirit of Jesus, alive and well.

PRAYERS FOR THE EASTER SEASON



BY YOUR RESURRECTION

Lucien Diess

L: By your resurrection, O

Lord, you become the firstborn of the dead.

All: Help us live the newness of your life.

L: By your resurrection you seal the New Covenant.

All: Place in our hearts your own Spirit.

L: By your resurrection you killed hate among people.

All: Help us live the new law of your love.

L: By your resurrection you clothed yourself with immortality.

All: Help us put on the New Man created in justice and holiness of truth.

L: By your resurrection

you sit at the right hand of your Father.

All: Help us discover in the earthly realities the path to your heavenly Kingdom.

L: By your resurrection

you restore the universe.

All: Rebuild also your Church in your joy, because the life of your risen people is the witness of your resurrection.

Phil 2/16; Eph. 4,24; Col. 3,1-2; Heb. 8/7-13; Rev. 21/5

Live the resurrection in your daily life

YOUR RESURRECTION IS THE HOPE OF OUR OWN

May you be blessed, Lord Jesus, because your resurrection is the hope of our own, and the glory that will clothe us on the last day is a reflection of that which clothed you on Easter morning.

We pray to you:

Let all our lives express this hope by their constant renewal through the joy of your love and the service of our brothers and sisters.

MAKE THE WORDS OF THE RISEN CHRIST YOUR OWN THIS SUNDAY

“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

“And he breathed on them and said to them:” Receive the Holy Spirit.

“If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” Jn. 20, 21-22