

EASTER NEWSLETTER

EASTER 2014



**Christ is
Risen!**

Know your roots! Be familiar from where you come from so that you can understand what you are doing today.

**Indeed!
Christ is
Risen!**

In the Eastern side of Christianity they have a wonderful old tradition that believers would greet each others on this Easter Sunday with "Christ is Risen!" And the response would be, "Indeed, Christ is Risen!"

The similar recognition of another human being becomes a moment to recognize the ultimate reality. Christ is alive and working among us as we speak!

HOW TO USE THIS BULLETIN

Today is Easter Sunday. It is the most important day of our year. When we speak of the risen Christ we mean that the power of death has been defeated.

We can stand here and defy evil and the consequences of evil. It will not have the last word for Christ has conquered all evil.

Darkness has been put down.

Now, this is the time when God's mercy, power and goodness must dominate all human relationships. No longer must any one human being be pushed aside because of their place of birth. No longer will life appear hopeless. We are launched into the life of Jesus Christ and are meant to live forever.

We recognize that the life of the Risen Lord has been planted in each one of us in our Baptism. The seed of the risen Christ is to grow and blossom into a human life filled with compassion for the poor and the neglected, with justice for all human beings and with a respect that can see the very face of God in the faces of our sisters and brothers.

Know your Easter

You will never love a person you do not know!

How foolish to think that you can have one part of society become concerned about another part of society if they never have anything to do with this other group of people. This is how dictators keep people apart and fighting against each other. Keep them apart. Keep them as strangers.

But miracles begin to happen as soon as someone knows another person on a first name basis and as soon as someone begins to hear the life-story of someone else. This is no longer a person I can ignore or push aside. Now, this is a real flesh and blood person who will soon become a friend.

It is exactly the same with our Christian faith. Unfortunately too many people have gone through the Catholic sausage machine but have not come to know Jesus, as a human being, as one sent by God, as a brother and now as the Risen Son of God.

Too much of what has passed off as religion has been like the kid who has been instructed in class how to swim but he fearfully stands on the edge of the pool and will not jump in the water!

You shake your head: 'You will never learn to swim standing on the edge of the pool.'

Our life in the Church must try to bring us to jump into the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Hear how Jesus shares with us the greatness of God and his all-embracing love for all human beings. Be touched by his power to forgive the evil and the terrible mistakes that people have made in their lives. Listen how Jesus is patient with the slowness and the mistakes of his disciples.

Look Jesus directly in the eyes. Touch his strong compassion for fellow human being and his determined desire to follow the will of God in all things.

Know Jesus as human being!

Now, as we have walked with Jesus through Palm Sunday, the Last Supper and the horrible pain of public execution, place the dead Jesus in the tomb with Joseph of Arimathea.



Now step back! Have all your certainties exploded and knocked over. The life that you thought had ended in disaster is exploded in the Resurrection. The Risen God (who is God alive among us this very day) has been given to us.

Christ is truly risen and alive!

Now, it must never be a historical event of long ago. The resurrection is our sharing and participation in the Risen Christ right now!

You can only learn to swim if you jump into the water. You can only learn to believe if you jump into the life and mission of the Risen Jesus.

Pray your Easter

Now we have deliberately refrained from using the "Alleluia" during the forty days of Lent. As we celebrate and live the Resurrection our hearts cannot help but burst out the praise and joy that Christ is truly risen.

Sing Alleluia until your are blue in the face! Just let your joy and happiness flow from your whole body when you think about this great mystery that is happening in the here and now.

When you sing Alleluia think of the people that you know personally who have worked hard to alleviate poverty within our own city and Province. Often these are unsung people who give hours helping disadvantaged teenagers learn how to read and write properly, or learning how to hold down a job so that they properly support themselves. These unsung people, moved by the Spirit of Christ, are living their alleluias in service and patient compassion.

When you sing your Alleluia think of the people who are working hard to change the Canadian mentality towards the care of the earth. Think of these overlooked people who are provoking concern about global warming, pure, fresh water and the sustainability of our soils. See the spirit of newness working in their lives and enriching the rest of society.

When you sing your Alleluia think of your own Mother who leaves her job at 5:00 pm and goes and spends two more hours caring for her own aged Mother. She does not complain even though the sacrifice is very taxing.



The Risen Christ is present in the service and the commitment of these believers towards God and their fellow human being. They are being animated by the spirit of Christ within them. Recognize how Christ is present among us! Celebrate it in song and prayer!

Live your Easter

A moment of great insight happened when Sharon, who in her seven decades, had served God well in her Church community, began to understand "The resurrection is always something that happened two thousand years ago and now must happen right now." It was and is!

The mystery of being baptized into Christ is that we are made a part of the life and mission of the Risen Christ. We share in his very life and are now meant to become the living extension of the Risen Christ in our daily lives. We are meant to be the face of the Risen Christ out in the world!

Be the hands of the Risen Christ when you take time to help your elderly neighbor clean up his house and keep the laundry in a rather low pile. Be the heart of the Risen Christ when you have time to have coffee with him in his house which at times can feel so lonely.

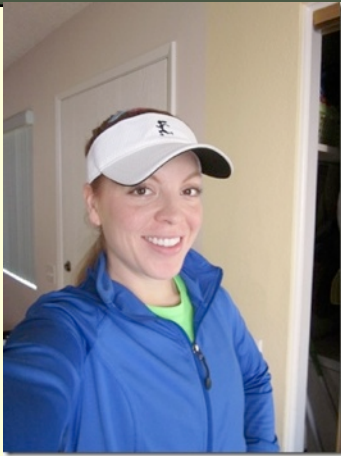
Be the face of Christ when you listen to the young nineteen year old who is confused and not sure which step to move forward in life. Have the patience to remember your own mistakes and false steps at that age. Be the friend that empowers this young person.

Be the heart of Christ when you must deal with a tragic accident within your own clan. Perhaps someone was drunk and drove off a steep embankment. The accident resulted in death. Be the heart of Christ to listen to your sister or brother who cries that their own child came to such a tragic ending.

Live your Easter means to share intently in the movement of the Risen Christ. Each Sunday we are sent out into the world to be the heart and the face of the Risen Christ to the people of the world.

Be brave! Live the Resurrection of Jesus Christ in your own life!





*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

YOUR RESURRECTION

An Easter prayer by 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



On this most holy day, Lord God, through the triumph of your only-begotten Son you have shattered the gates of death and opened the way to everlasting life. Grant we beseech you, that we who celebrate the festival of the Lord's resurrection, may rise to new and glorious life through the quickening power of your Spirit. We ask this through Christ our Lord, in unity with the Holy Spirit, now and forever.