



THE POWER OF RESURRECTION

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary made their way to the tomb. On arrival, they were surprised to discover the stone rolled away, the tomb was open and the body was missing. Instead, there was a young man dressed in white telling them not to be afraid because Jesus has risen. The young man invited them to go to Galilee where Jesus would meet them. The women left the tomb with fear and great joy and ran to tell the disciples.

*On the evening of the same day, the doors being shut where the disciples were, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them,
“Do not be afraid”*

The dawn breaks, the walls of pain and death are shattered as Jesus emerges from the tomb to newness of life. He gives each of us His presence and His lasting peace.

The resurrection is not a single event at a particular time; it lives on in each of us and is happening in our lives now. The Risen Christ is continuously coming through the closed doors of our minds and hearts, closed through anxiety and fear, and He says to each of us, “Peace be with you”.

The power of Jesus’ resurrection enables us to embrace fear. Resurrection gives us hope in a situation where before we felt hopeless, it enables us to stay trusting against all odds.

We are an Easter people in whose hearts we carry a relentless belief in the light. A capacity to hope against hope, a stubborn refusal to give way in the face of suffering, an extraordinary ability to begin again and again after being touched by tragedy. These hopes, though fragile at times are a persistent experience of our human spirit.

The resurrection is the assurance that evil and suffering do not have the last word, that injustice and inequality do not finally endure, that death is not the end. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead reminds us again and again that good triumphs over evil, that pain and suffering can be transformed into new life and that death is a point of entering into new life. Resurrection happens not only after death, it affects the living of our daily lives and our living before death.

Proof of the resurrection is not found in the empty tomb. Rather, it is seen in the committed lives of those of us who believe. Our lives are the tangible proof that Jesus is risen. Our unselfish openness to others, our many acts of kindness, our genuine efforts at peace, our daily commitment to safeguard each other during this time of the Covid 19 pandemic, our ability to love without counting the cost, all testify to those who encounter us that Jesus has been raised from the dead and that He continues to live within us and among us.

We must stand firmly on the ground and make our way in this life knowing that all is changed. Easter changes everything - the impossible becomes possible. The new life flowing through us enables us to realise that nothing is impossible any more, and that we can do all things in Him who strengthens us. If we dare to believe it, we can overcome every fear, every anxiety, and every difficult situation in our daily lives.

Easter is about believing in the light while it is still dark around us. It is about looking forward in hope and putting our trust in the risen Lord.

Do we have the necessary courage and trust to believe in the midst of our present darkness that the abiding presence of Christ is with us?
Watching over us, protecting and blessing us?

**Heaven on earth lies before us today
for the taking.**

Can we dare to choose the life it offers?

Your strength will come from my light
dwelling within you

You will meet me at every moment
and in every circumstance of your life

You will have sun even when it rains,
you will have winter even when
spring is planning to surprise you.

You will always be dying a little to make
room for another beginning.

Never loose heart,
it is my light you shine,
it is with my love that you love
I will be right there in the midst of your life.

I am with you always until the end of time.

Risen Lord

May this day be a day of hope,
of expectation,
of relishing each moment
as a gift from you.

May this day be a day of freedom
of breaking free,
of loosening that chains
that still surround us.

May this day be a day
of blessing,
of living in the power of the resurrection.

May your light shine into our hearts
and on our lives,
filling us with trust, love,
joy, peace
and an abundance of new life. Amen.

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ is *always* with us.**