

Easter Message

2019

It has to be said that for the majority of people in our country Easter is just another Bank Holiday. That is a pity because Easter is a Christian festival which is a time of new beginnings and renewed hope. I believe that people today more than ever are searching for a deeper meaning in life which friendship with Jesus Christ can give us. At this time of year, we even see nature renewing itself in the new life of spring. The longer days and warmer weather give us new hope and God is offering us a new beginning through his Son Jesus Christ.

At Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. After his death on the Cross on Good Friday we Christians believe that he rose from the dead on the third day. It is an event which has an effect in all our lives. It was GK Chesterton who said that if there is one thing we can say about humanity is that it isn't what it should be. We know even on a personal level that we are flawed. We do things we know will bring us and those we love unhappiness. At the same time, we leave undone those things which we know will bring us contentment. We somehow can't help ourselves. It is the resurrection of Jesus Christ that puts humanity on the right track. He has put our fractured human existence on a new track by overturning the dominance of the one who would destroy us.

As Christians we believe that Jesus died to take away all the sins of the world. Through his death and resurrection, he gives the world a new start and humanity a renewed meaning. In Jesus Christ, God has come close to us in our human frailty and suffering, and has conquered sin and death and every evil. He has come close to us by sharing our human condition, by suffering betrayal, by undergoing agonising torture, and by dying a most horrific death. But in Christ he came close to us as one of us to redeem us, and he experienced our sufferings as one who suffers too. There is no human indignity, no humiliation, which God does not know in his human flesh.

Humanity is capable of the most dreadful crimes, but see what God can do. See just how through the ocean of love he has for us he transforms the most evil and hopeless situations and makes them into something fresh and beautiful for God. Easter teaches us to be optimistic about ourselves and frail humanity. We have new opportunities and new horizons which can lead us to a true freedom in Christ.

As we begin the Easter season let us make it a time of renewal in our own lives. Let us be prepared to share our faith with others not so much by what we say but by what we do, by the kind of people we are. Pope Francis said recently:

“may the Lord free us from this trap of being Christians without hope, who live as if the Lord were not Risen”

That is my prayer too and may I wish you and all those you love every blessing of this holy season.

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