

Sermon for Easter Day 2020

I am Risen and am present with Thee.

Greater words of comfort and reassurance at this time of national and international crisis could not have been written. Ps 68 opens with the following words: - "May God arise, may His enemies be scattered; may His foes flee before Him. As smoke is blown away by the wind, may you blow them away; as wax melts in the fire, may the wicked perish before God. But may the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; may they be happy and joyful".

Christ is Risen that we know by our Faith to be true, but very sadly His enemies today are far from being scattered, the world on this Easter Sunday, is stricken almost paralysed not just by the devastating Coronavirus, but by conflict, injustice, hate, inequality, poverty and intolerance.

This is the day that that the Lord has made so be glad in it and as Christians we most certainly are. Today after our long Lenten journey of meditation, prayer and fasting we have at last arrived at this glorious day of the Resurrection of Our Blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. From that tree of shame and sorrow we have witnessed by faith the ultimate victory. That same tree of shame transformed into the Cross of Hope. Christ has overcome death to free all mankind once and for all from the bondage of sin and wickedness.

During these most desperate of days we need to seek encouragement and that comes directly from the "Cross of Hope". Unless we have some main Hope on which to hang our days like pearls on a thread, time will scatter them and they will be lost and forgotten. Each and every day brings a mixture of fresh experiences and unless we have a cord of faith running through our lives we shall always be at the mercy of circumstances, happy one day, miserable the next, going up and down with the fluctuations and fortunes of everyday life.

It is our personal times of devotion, meditation and prayer that tie up the loose ends of our thoughts and hold the personality together. It is importantly our prayers that link one day with another and gives continuity to life. We must as Christians, thread our days with thoughts of God, it is the only way possible to try and make any sense of the world in which we live. There must be an unbroken line of worship and devotion, a ceaseless weaving of the invisible threads that keep us in touch with the unseen.

Without this continuity life will become disconnected, lacking purpose and meaning. It is this continuous weaving of the thought of God into the deepest reaches of our souls that helps strengthen our resolve to remain resolute and steadfast. Through our individual and collective Faith in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ, Christians should and must proclaim the Good News of the Gospels Message. So let each day be linked to day by cords of prayer and praise, and hour be joined by hour by a continuous thread of HOPE.

In the Name of Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ,

May Almighty God, Bless, Preserve and Keep You all. Amen.

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