



From Your Pastor's Desk,

Importance of Easter!



Easter is the greatest and the most important feast of our faith for three reasons. 1) The Resurrection of Christ is the basis of our Christian faith: It is the greatest of the miracles, proving that Jesus is God; and that is why St. Paul writes; *“If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain; and your faith is in vain”* (1 Cor 15: 14). *“Jesus is Lord, he is risen”* (Rom 10: 9), was the central theme of the *kerygma* ('preaching'), of the apostles because Jesus prophesied it as a sign of his divinity; *“Tear down this temple and in three days I will build it again”* (Jn 2: 19). No founder of any other religion has an empty tomb as Jesus has. 2) Easter is the guarantee of our own resurrection: Jesus assured Martha at the tomb of Lazarus: *“I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me will live even though he dies”* (Jn 11: 25-26). 3) Easter is a feast which gives us hope and encouragement in this world of pain and sorrows: It reminds us that life is worth living. It is our belief in the real presence of the risen Lord that gives meaning to our personal as well as our communal prayer. It gives freedom from temptations and unnecessary worries and fears.

Message of Easter!

1) To live a life of the “people of Resurrection”: Easter gives us the joyful message that we are a People of Resurrection. This means that we are not supposed to lie buried in the tomb of our sins, evil habits, dangerous addictions, despair, discouragement or doubts. Instead, we are expected to live a joyful and peaceful life; constantly experiencing the real presence of the resurrected Lord in all the events of our lives with boredom, suffering, pain and tensions of our day-to-day life.

2) To live a disciplined life in the Risen Christ: Our awareness of the all-pervading presence of the risen Lord in and around us, and the strong conviction of our own resurrection, help us to *control our thoughts, desires, words and behavior*. This salutary thought inspires us to *honor our bodies, keeping them holy*, pure and free from evil habits and addictions. Our conviction about the presence of the risen Lord in our neighbors and in all those with whom we come into contact should encourage us to respect them, and to render them loving, humble and selfless service.

3) To become transparent Christians: We are called to be transparent Christians, showing others through our lives the love, mercy, compassion and spirit of self-sacrificing service of the risen Jesus living in our hearts.

4) To live a life of love in the power of Jesus' Resurrection: Let us recall that each time we try to practice Christian charity, mercy and forgiveness and each time we fight against temptations we share in the resurrection of Jesus.

May the Risen Lord watch over and protect us in all that we do in our daily life. May we cherish the Easter Joy every day of our lives. May God bless all of us.

WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY EASTER – 2018!

Lovingly Your Pastor,

Fr. Tomy Puliyanampattayil Joseph, MSFS