Easter Sunday

This year, we get to experience a taste of what the first Easter was like, as the disciples locked in their homes and daring to believe that hope is in the horizon. This Easter we too are locked down in our homes unable to attend church.

This Easter some of us could be disheartened and confused like the disciples after Jesus’ crucifixion as the events of last few days were mired in sadness, despair, and fear. Today we celebrate Easter amid our hopelessness, uncertainty, brokenness, despair and darkness of our lives caused especially with the COVID-19 Pandemic, and we have locked ourselves behind the doors. Perhaps this Easter will give new perspectives and meaning to our life and faith, now more than ever. This Easter some of us could be passionately seeking meaning and sense out of what is happening around us like the women and Mary who runs to the tomb early in the morning to anoint the body of Jesus who are a symbol of love, gratitude and hope. The women bring spices to the tomb, but they fear that their journey is in vain, since a large stone bars the entrance to the sepulcher. The journey of those women is also our own journey; it resembles the journey of salvation that we have made this evening. A single phrase astounds the woman and changes history: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?”

The Disciples wanted to believe the good news they heard from them, but it seemed too good to be true. But eventually they were able to leave their homes as they encountered the Risen Lord. They believed and recognized that hope was possible that the long night was over, that God’s love was the most powerful of all. Then they began to spread the good news that Jesus is Risen, and love is the most powerful force on the earth.
Easter is the feast of tombstones taken away; rocks rolled aside. God takes away even the hardest stones against which our hopes and expectations crash: death, sin, fear, worldliness. Human history does not end before a tombstone, because today it encounters the “living stone” (cf. 1 Pet 2:4), the risen Jesus. The Easter message is a message of life, the life of Christ present in his church and in the world even in these difficult moments. Easter is a message of victory of life over death, good over evil, love over hatred, unity over rivalry, generosity over selfishness, peace over violence, justice over iniquity, truth over falsehood. It is a message of Life, love, victory, forgiveness, mercy, service and reconciliation.

If we look at our world today, physically, we are sick with this Pandemic, there is death, darkness, despair and uncertainty. Materialistically most of us are broke, no jobs, no income, bills to pay and necessities of life to be purchased. We seem stuck at the bottom of an abyss. Spiritually, we feel weighed down by our Sins, addictions and brokenness; we are often weary, disheartened and sad; emotional problems and financial worries, heart breaks and heart burn. Humankind is trapped in a dreadful situation. All seems lost. These past few days, ever so often I heard the question: “is there any hope?”. The categorical message of Easter is “Yes, there is hope”. No matter how bleak the situation, THERE IS HOPE... because the LORD is risen indeed. Pope Francis reminds us: “It’s God’s love that at Easter... made of death a passage of life, who changed our fear into trust, our anguish into hope. Easter tells us that God can turn everything into good, that with him we can truly trust that all will be well. And this is not an illusion...!”

Then when it is safe for all people we will come out from our lockdown, gathering again together, singing and proclaiming the good news that God brings life even out of death and that the ultimate victory is His.
This Easter, the Lord invites each of us to Turn to Him, Trust Him and Rely on Him. The Lord speaks to us through prophet Hosea, “Thus says the Lord: In their affliction, they shall look for me: Come, Let us return to the Lord, For it is he who has torn, but he will heal us; he has struck us, but he will bind our wounds. He will revive us after two days; on the third day he will raise us up, to live in his presence.” (Hosea 5:15; 6:1-2)

I wish everyone of you a Happy and Blessed Easter, May the Risen Lord Calm our fears and fill us with Hope and peace at this difficult time.