

## Reflection for Easter Day 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Alleluia. Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

As I wrote this reflection, I was acutely aware of the silence of Holy Saturday. A day when the Church throughout the world, is watching and waiting. The watching and waiting that is familiar to us from Maundy Thursday scene at Mount of Olives. We watch and wait, and pray: “He was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell...” Yes, there was a new kind of emptiness in Holy Saturday this year.

But then that same prayer goes to say: “On the third day He rose again...” and here we are! It is the morning of the third day, although I am not quite sure if our minds are ready to catch up with the reality of the Resurrection.

I don't know about you, but the life as it is at the moment, feels like an endless Holy Saturday. We sit in our homes and wait. We wait that the Covid-19 crisis would pass us soon. We wait to get out of our homes – especially if we are shielding. We wait to go to school – I know how weird is that kids?! And we wait to go to work again. We wait to see our families and friends again. But most of all, we wait life without fear and worry.

So, let me say it again: Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! And that is a proclamation we truly have to take into our hearts today. Yes, it is Easter Day like never before, but it still is the Resurrection Day.

So what does Easter Day have to say to us and the world of fear and uncertainty?

Everything! Let me repeat: Everything!

Hear this: on that First Easter Day, two Marys encountered an angel of the Lord who told them that Jesus is alive again. On that First Easter Day, two Marys were on their way to tell others what the angel had told them, when they encountered the Risen Christ himself, who told them, “**Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.**” On that First Easter Day, with this instruction a movement of hope began.

Truly, truly, Easter Day has everything to say to our current situation. When life triumphs over death, when insignificant women are the first witnesses of the Resurrection, when the powers of empire cannot silence a ragtag band of ordinary people 2000 years ago, something different is at work in the world.

And on this Easter Day, this is the message we have to take into our hearts. We are Easter people. We belong to movement of hope which is our inspiration and challenge.

If our celebration of Resurrection can connect us with the living reality of resurrection life now, we can live knowing that there is always hope and life, even when we live through times of grief and trauma.

When we allow the resurrection to become a reality by which we live, and not just an idea that we remember, our mission changes from just trying to “get people into heaven” to bringing life to others in whatever way we can – big or small.

Resurrection is reality that we are called to live. We don’t just receive resurrection life, but we become carries of that life to the world around us – if we only can believe in and embrace its power.

Easter people – friends in Christ, I wish that your Easter be a moment, not just a celebration, but of awakening and of

mobilisation to find life, bring life, create life in every place of death in your world.

On that first Easter morning Christ rose from death and made things new, for that reason, let us say together one more time:

Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**Amen.**

### **Readings of Easter Holy Eucharist:**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading      Acts 10: 34 – 43

Psalm            118:1 – 2, 14 – 24

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading     Colossians 3:1 – 4

Gospel            Matthew 28:1 – 10