

# Encouragement Encouragement

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**Merciful Redeemer – Risen from the Dead**

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A new month and a celebration of the most wonderful event in history, Jesus the Messiah, Saviour has risen from the dead. The man they tried to eliminate because His message of love, forgiveness and mercy was so powerful cannot be thus dealt with. Putting Him to death only increased His follower's worldwide. Why? Because that is the most powerful message of all, and one cannot suppress Truth. Also, he was God made Man who came down to save us all and instil in us hope of everlasting Life. He literally reinstated the potency of life everlasting by rising from the dead. He revealed not only His humanity but His humility in the way he died but then showed us His power and glory.

Let us rejoice in this day and be glad. Let us celebrate with true Christian Joy the events following His rising from the dead.

In these days of 'one day events' we tend to forget that Easter is celebrated over the whole Octave, eight days, as we hear of the events following the Resurrection. Indeed, the Sundays following are known as Easter Sundays. Many of the events show us the full Divinity of Jesus. Such as the way He appeared to the Apostles, was suddenly among them (Jn 20:24-29), but what is revealed is the continuing teaching that he gives the Apostles and disciples but also the totally understanding way that He deals with doubts and fears that they exhibit. He deals with each of them in a unique way each according to their understanding and need and according to the role that they have or who they are.

It is no mistake that following from Easter Sunday we have the Feast of His Abundant Mercy. We only have to look at how mercifully he dealt with those who grieved like Mary Magdalen, calling her by name, understanding that she was bereft and did not know what to do. Then we have the way that he dealt with Thomas whose doubt is probably like ours at times... when we seek proof. He was merciful to him

and though making Himself clear took him by the hand, leaving Thomas only five words to say 'My Lord and My God'. Then there is Peter. Peter the leader, Peter the strong, and Peter the weak, Peter who betrayed Jesus and yet loved Him. His mercy extended to him by allowing him to make amends and restate to Jesus three times that he loved him and giving him back his authority to lead and be the Shepherd which he himself was. The list is endless...

Recently speaking to some children about the Resurrection I found that some found it difficult to grasp that Jesus was alive and not dead. They were very upset about the fact that Jesus died in such a cruel way but the fact He rose stunned them especially in the sense of the fact that the tomb was empty... I wonder how many of us feel this same sense of disbelief. We accept that He died but His continuing life leaves us rather

perplexed as to what that really means and that we too will rise and live on. We then realise that we pray to Him but what does that therefore mean as far as 'the rising.' I am sure that many of us leapfrog this dilemma, accept it in faith but leave it alone. It is quite sad that this happens for his rising is the essential critical part of the whole story... He returned to His Father and opened up the gates of heaven for us. He was no ghost or spirit but a tangible human and divine being.

The mercy of the Father is seen in this amazing event. The Father who so loved the world sent His Son to bring us back to himself through the Death and Rising of His Son. Had He just died it would have been the end. Sad, maybe incredible, yes, even a self-offering, but not complete.

It is here therefore that we find the purpose of His Resurrection. We see the completeness of the Gift that the Father and Spirit gave us on the Easter Day. Jesus lives and therefore we can pay to Him and speak with Him.

**BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, FOR THEY WILL BE OBTAIN MERCY... MATTHEW 5:7**



We can be grateful and speak to the Father and ask for the Spirit's guidance.

When we speak of God's mercy this is what we must recall. The Father could have abandoned us to a death. He could have left us without any aid or help. He could have closed the gates of Paradise. But instead He kept His promise and freed us to live with Him. Does He not show incredible mercy to us? In Jesus we see that extension of His love. In everything that Jesus did His compassion and kindness His helping hand, His understanding and love reveals God's Mercy. But is it not thus imperative that as well as rejoicing and singing loud praises we also carry out His Mission, which is to tell all people of His Mercy and the Good News of Salvation. Yes, it is then we can sing Alleluia He has risen. Alleluia and thanksgiving for His mercy...

Rejoice and be glad for Salvation has come to us.  
Easter Joy. Halina Holman



### ***Easter Love***

*On Easter we celebrate love,  
love coming down from heaven,  
love blanketing the earth  
in a transforming embrace;  
unique and infinite love,  
giving more than we can imagine  
for us, to cleanse our sin,  
a perfect sacrifice, Lamb of God,  
the walking, talking Word.  
He is teacher, role model, friend,  
this God in human form,  
dying, then rising from the dead,  
proving all who believe  
will also rise  
to have eternal life, with Him,  
Lord of all.  
Oh, Happy, Happy Easter!*

Joanna Fuchs (Poemsource.com)

### **Pope Francis.**

Jesus has risen from the dead, and this is not a fantasy. It's not a celebration with many flowers [pointing at the arrangements surrounding him]. This is beautiful, but the resurrection is more. It is the mystery of the thrown-away stone that ends up being the cornerstone of our existence. Christ has risen from the dead. In this throwaway culture, where that which is not useful takes the path of the use-and-throw, where that which is not useful is discarded, that stone that was discarded is the fountain of life," he said.

And even "us, little pebbles," who've been thrown in an earth full of "suffering, tragedy," with faith in the risen Christ, "have a reason for being, amidst so much calamity. A sense to look beyond: There is not a wall, but a horizon. There's life, joy, in there is the cross with this ambivalence.

The Church, facing our distrust, and closed and fearful hearts," continues to say, calm down, the Lord has risen.

Rome 2017

### **Papal Prayer for April:**

'That economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths.'



"Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Because of His great mercy He gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a living hope."

1 Peter 1:3-4

### **Easter Greeting to all!**

**May the Angels protect you,  
May sadness forget you,  
May goodness surround you,  
And may God always bless you...**

### **Feasts in April.**

**1<sup>st</sup> The Resurrection of Jesus (and 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>)**

2<sup>nd</sup> St Francis of Paola

5<sup>th</sup> St Vincent Ferrer

7<sup>th</sup> St John Baptist De La Salle.

**8<sup>th</sup> Feast of Divine Mercy Second Sunday of Easter**

**9<sup>th</sup> The Annunciation. (transferred feast.)**

11<sup>th</sup> St. Stanislaus

**15<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday of Easter.**

16<sup>th</sup> St. Bernadette

**22<sup>nd</sup> Fourth Sunday of Easter (prayer for vocations.),**

23<sup>rd</sup> St George

25<sup>th</sup> St Mark, Evangelist

28<sup>th</sup> St Louis de Montford

**29<sup>th</sup> Fifth Sunday of Easter.**