

## **Easter Homily > 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2025**

Today we gather to celebrate the most important and transformative event in the history of the world - the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Easter, which literally means "the feast of fresh flowers," is not just a feast; it is the very foundation of our Christian faith. As we reflect on this miracle of miracles, we remember that it is more than just a historical event. It is the assurance of our hope, our faith, and our new life in Christ.

There are many reasons why Easter is the greatest feast for us. The first reason is that the Resurrection of Christ is the very foundation of our Christian faith. St. Paul writes in his letter to the Corinthians: "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain; and your faith is in vain" (1 Cor. 15:14). Without the Resurrection, there would be no Christianity. The Resurrection proves that Jesus is who He claimed to be: the Son of God. He is the Lord of life, and He has conquered death. The central theme of the Apostles' preaching was this: "Jesus is Lord! He is risen!"

The second reason is that Easter is the guarantee of our own resurrection. When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He told Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me will live, even though they die" (John 11:25-26). Easter promises that we, too, will rise again, just as Christ rose from the dead. It is the hope that sustains us through the trials of life, knowing that this world is not the end, but merely a passage to something much greater.

The third reason Easter is so important is that it offers us hope and encouragement in a world filled with pain, suffering, and sorrow. We are reminded that life is worth living, even in the face of difficulties. The joy of Easter empowers us to fight against temptation and frees us from unnecessary fears. In the light of the Resurrection, we are reminded that we do not walk through this world alone; the Risen Lord walks with us, bringing us strength and peace.

Finally, Easter gives meaning to our prayers. The Risen Jesus is not distant or removed from our lives. He is present in His Church, in the Blessed Sacrament, and in Heaven, hearing our prayers. The Resurrection assures us that our prayers are not in vain, but are heard by a living, loving Savior.

As we celebrate Easter, let us also reflect on how we are called to live in light of the Resurrection. First, we are called to live as people of the Resurrection. We are not meant to remain buried in the tomb of our sins, addictions, or despair. Just as Jesus rose from the dead, we, too, are invited to rise above the struggles and darkness of our lives. We are to live with joy, peace, and hope, constantly experiencing the presence of the Risen Lord in every moment.

Second, the conviction of the Real Presence of the Risen Lord should shape how we live. The Risen Lord dwells within us, around us, and in the people we encounter every day. This awareness inspires us to live disciplined Christian lives, controlling our thoughts, desires, and actions in a way that honors God. We are reminded that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, and we must keep them pure and free from sin.

Third, as we recognize the presence of the Risen Lord in those around us, we are called to serve them with love and humility. The way we treat others reflects our understanding of Christ's presence in them. Whether it is through acts of mercy, compassion, or selfless service, we are invited to radiate the love of the Risen Lord to all we meet.

Finally, let us strive to be transparent Christians, radiating the light of Christ in the world. Our faith in the Resurrection should be evident in our lives, through our love, our actions, and our witness. Let us be agents of hope, peace, and reconciliation in a world that desperately needs it.

As we celebrate Easter, let us rejoice in the fact that Christ is risen! He has conquered sin and death, and because of Him, we, too, can rise to new life. Let this truth shape our hearts, our lives, and our world. May the joy of the Resurrection fill us with hope, strength, and the love to serve others in His name.

Happy Easter to all of you! May the peace of the Risen Christ be with you today and always.