

EASTER MESSAGE 2020: Fr. Joshy

I am very glad to wish you all A happy Easter. Easter Celebrates Jesus's resurrection from the dead. Easter is the celebration of Jesus' victory over death and Easter reminds us of our hope in the promise of our own resurrection.

With the COVID 19 pandemic, most of our lives have become in a stand still. Some of us may be in a place where we do not know what to do and every day looks different. Some of us may have more blessings of time, and enjoy family, as we spend our time together. Some of us may have the struggle of managing our lives, due to our concerns of financial insecurity, Job insecurity, fear of our own health, safety and well-being of our family.

Some of us may have our struggles of restlessness, feeling of anger, frustration, resentment etc., because our lives are no longer the same and all our plans are shattered.

So, we may ask; when I go through this experience with this pandemic, how can I really celebrate Easter the great feast of the Resurrection of the Lord and his victory over death?

I would say, this is really the time to celebrate Easter as a family. For us Resurrection today;

1) can be the experience of coming out of the tomb.

What are the tombs from which we need to come out so that we can experience resurrection today? if we are in the tomb of: sickness, fear, anxiety, tension, insecurity, depression, Lack of trust, lack of unity in the family, lack of God fearing etc., the risen Lord invites us to come out and open our lives to Him, with trust to surrender our lives to His loving mercy. So that the Risen Lord can liberate our lives from our afflictions. Here Easter is good news of us coming out of our tombs and surrendering our lives to the Lord. So that our lives also will experience the joy of the resurrection.

2)Resurrection can be the experience of deliverance for us today.

What are the things from which we need to be delivered from? so that we can experience resurrection today? If we are being in the darkness of faithlessness & hopelessness, in the darkness of worldly pleasures, in the darkness of greed, in the darkness of self-pride, in the darkness of immorality, in the darkness of marital struggles, in the darkness of total independence on our own self, which takes us away from God, our family, our marriage, our children, our loves ones, and our own self, then this Easter is for us to celebrate with the Christ.

So that by bringing us back to the lord and being born again in Christ's life, our lives be renewed and we will see and experience a new life in Christ. Because Christ the light who dispels darkness from our lives, leads us to the newness of life with Him and with that our marriages and families are renewed. Thus, Easter can become an experience of resurrection for us by the experience of our deliverance. But Jesus will not will not force anything on us but he is waiting for our hearts to turn to Him. So that we can have the experience of resurrection in our lives.

3)Easter can be redirecting our lives to the experience of newness life in Christ.

What are the different life situations from which we need a death so that we can rise again and experience resurrection today? If our life is in the darkness of infidelity, in the darkness of abandoning God for the sake of the worlds attractions, in the darkness of poisonous ideologies and thoughts that destroy marriages and families, in the darkness of unethical practices of human relationships, in the

darkness of the culture of death and its promotion etc., then, when with openness, we embrace Christ and his plans for our lives, we will know God's will for our lives and come to the experience, the joy of the resurrection in this renewed new life. Because, only with Christ we have peace, hope, love, family, success, and happiness that is lasting and eternal.

Hence for the joy and the promise of Resurrection for us to be real, we need to open our lives to the life of Christ and begin to walk in his light, living the life of the gospel, through the grace of the Sacraments and the total embrace of the teachings of the Lord given to us through His Holy Church. Here we come to experience the joy of the resurrection.

4) Easter can be the experience of our blessings of being together as a family.

This lock down can be a blessing and an opportunity for us to bring our families to the Heart of Jesus. It becomes a blessing as we get to spend more time together as a family, and use the time to share our love for each other, appreciate each other, do things together, learn things together, share things and stories together as a family, pray together as a family, relax together as a family, slow down together as a family from our hectic and busy life style, cherish our family values and culture, care for each other to let them know how much you truly love them,

talk about the struggles that you as a family go through, talk about someone who is affected by the pandemic to find out ways and means to help them, pray for the people who help others putting their lives in the harm's way, care for those who care for the needy and be at your best self. Here we experience resurrection and new life. Let us thus continue to experience the resurrection in the little but most important things and events of our day to day lives.

Hence come to the Light. So that through the Risen Lord Jesus, who is the light of the world, shedding His light on our personal lives, our marriages, our families and our jobs, everything will be renewed and continue to blossom. This is where we begin to reap peace in the family, love in our marriages and joy 100-fold. Because only in Jesus' name we have victory. Only through Jesus we will find families and lives being renewed in love.

So, let's continue to build families in the self-giving Love of the lord and ready to die in love for our spouse, children and family through our faith in the lord, that is where we see marriages and families resurrect in love and in the life of Christ. Hence Let's fully embrace Christ and his teachings into our lives and allow Jesus Christ to show us the light to make our lives brighter and better and thus experience the newness of life and the experience of resurrection.

Happy Easter!