



Then the other disciple
 also went in, the one who
 had arrived at the tomb
 first, and he saw
 and believed.
 JOHN 20:8

KIMBERLY BROWN/ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

With Mouths Wide Open

We normally speak of “eyes wide open,” an experience of seeing and understanding. However, Easter is a time of total astonishment, of standing before mystery with our mouths wide open and not understanding. Even the closest followers of Jesus were dumbfounded. Mary Magdalene didn’t expect to find an empty tomb. Upon seeing it, she presumed that the body had been stolen. The Gospel says that “they did not yet understand” (John 20:9). How could they? The magnitude of the mystery was overwhelming.

When did they finally understand? Actually, it’s more a question of believing than understanding. The Gospel tells us that they came to believe. They came to believe in him—not that he would conquer death by not

dying, but that he would conquer it by dying and then being transformed into a new kind of life, a kind of living that isn’t subject to death. They came to believe this through an experience of him.

We might envy the early followers who had Easter experiences of Jesus. But if we look carefully we will see that they experienced him in their everyday lives—in community gatherings, in the breaking of the bread. These are the very places where we can experience him in our own lives. The good news of Jesus’ resurrection isn’t just that we shall die and go home with him, but that he is risen and comes home with us.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ Be astonished today at how much God loves you. Think of the ways this is evident in your life.
- ★ He is not dead. He is with us. Where in your life are you touched by this mystery?

Assumption of Our Lady



April 12, 2020

www.ourladyofassumptionhayriver.com

Hay River, NT

Easter – Year A

Sunday Masses

Weekday Masses

10:30 or 11:00 AM

7:30 AM

Donations may be made by cheque, email money transfer, or online.

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& St. Anne, Katlodeche

Location	Live Streaming	Facebook	Watch Later
Assumption of Our Lady Hay River	Sunday Mass 10:30 AM		Facebook & our website
Diocese of Mackenzie- Fort Smith Yellowknife	Sunday Mass 11:00 AM		Facebook
Diocese of Mackenzie- Fort Smith Yellowknife	Daily Mass 7:30 AM		Facebook

Easter Letter

April 12, 2020



Dear Faithful of the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith

Easter Sunday is upon us. We have concluded our celebration of the Sacred Triduum and before us lies 50 days of Easter which will bring us to the Feast of Pentecost, the day the Holy Spirit was set loose upon the Church.

It has been an Easter unlike any other, with this Pandemic hanging over the world like a dark cloud. Yet, Easter it is. The resurrection of Christ cannot be delayed to a time when everything is fine and there are no worries to distract us. Christ is risen today, Alleluia.

“We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song.” These words, spoken by Pope John Paul II nearly 35 years ago resonate just as strongly today as they did back then. This sainted Pope lived through great wars, cold wars, culture wars and even survived an attempt on his own life. Yet, his hope in the risen Lord allowed him the strength to carry on through it all not just with determination, but with joy.

It is my prayer that you will have that joy in your life. Whether you are waiting to go back to work or just waiting to go outside we must always see the “new normal” from the perspective of the “True Normal”, that all things are in the hands of God and that with faith there is no need for despair.

So many who came to the tomb of Jesus on that first Easter morning were so sad and confused at the loss their Lord and filled with dread about the future. When they encountered the risen Lord his first words to them were, “be not afraid”.

So, let us put fear aside, trusting in God that all will be well. Before us are 50 days of Easter. Join me in praying that as we come to the end of those days, if not before, and we celebrate the great gift of the Holy Spirit, we will do so in our Churches together again, together at last. Pray that the Lord will lift us from this Pandemic and raise us to new life with our faith reborn.

May God bless and protect you and your families; may he keep you always mindful of his presence in your life and may the risen Lord be a constant source of hope for you in the days to come.

In the Redeemer
+Jon



Dear Padre,

What’s the origin of the word *Easter*? It’s not mentioned in the Bible. Wouldn’t a better name be Resurrection Sunday?

Experts trace Easter back to Old-English meanings associated with *Eostre*, the goddess of spring and fertility. Others point to the German word for east, which is derived from the Latin word for dawn. Regardless, Christianity found new meaning in the ancient celebration of nature’s rebirth during the spring equinox. This resurrection of new life over the dead of winter also pointed to Christ’s resurrection from the dead at dawn.

Likewise, early Christians gave new meaning to ancient symbols of fertility, such as rabbits and eggs. For example, a hatching chick represented the risen Christ emerging from the shell of a tomb, and the Roman proverb *Omne vivum ex ovo* (“All life comes from an egg”) symbolized the resurrection. Eggs, prohibited during the Lenten fast, were reintroduced at the Easter meal and shared as decorated gifts.

In 1610, a prayer by Pope Paul V blessed the egg, “that it may become a wholesome sustenance to thy faithful servants, eating it in thankfulness to thee, on account of the resurrection of the Lord.”

“Each week, on the day called the Lord’s Day, [the Church] commemorates the Resurrection of the Lord, which she also celebrates once a year in the great Paschal Solemnity” (*The Roman Missal*, “Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar,” 1). Thus, every Sunday—even those in Lent—is a Resurrection Sunday in celebration of Christ’s triumph over death, which will include our own!



—Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Today however we see that our journey is not in vain. ... Why do you think that everything is hopeless, that no one can take away your own tombstones? Why do you give in to resignation and failure? Easter is the feast of tombstones taken away, rocks rolled aside.

—EASTER VIGIL HOMILY, APRIL 20, 2019

Calendar

Monday
APRIL 13
Octave of Easter
Acts 2:14, 22–33
Mt 28:8–15
Tuesday
APRIL 14
Octave of Easter
Acts 2:36–41
Jn 20:11–18
Wednesday
APRIL 15
Octave of Easter
Acts 3:1–10
Lk 24:13–35
Thursday
APRIL 16
Octave of Easter
Acts 3:11–26
Lk 24:35–48
Friday
APRIL 17
Octave of Easter
Acts 4:1–12
Jn 21:1–14
Saturday
APRIL 18
Octave of Easter
Acts 4:13–21
Mk 16:9–15
Sunday
APRIL 19
Second Sunday of Easter
(Sunday of Divine Mercy)
Acts 2:42–47
1 Pt 1:3–9
Jn 20:19–31

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