

EASTER

2024



The
Day of Resurrection
of our Lord

Alleluia!

Rector's Easter Message 2024

“Christ is risen; he is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

The book of commentaries, “Word and Worship”, reminds us that Easter Day is not the climax to the observance of Lent and Holy Week, but part of a liturgical season of fifty days in which to explore fully, the glorious truth of the Resurrection. The aim of this season is not to relive the Easter story as it applied to the disciples and the woman at the cross and the empty tomb, nor to walk alongside the experiences of those in the familiar readings of the Resurrection appearances, but rather to relate those readings to the lived experiences of our own time.

As we begin the liturgical season of Easter this year, we will hear the first Easter story from Mark 16:1-8 of Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James and Salome, who bought spices to anoint the body of Jesus. On their way to the tomb, they were worried about the large stone in front of the tomb, the encounter for which they were unprepared and the conversation with a young man dressed in a white robe, saying that Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified, had been raised. The tomb was empty.

Year after year, at the beginning of the Easter season we hear the story of the empty tomb, which is for us a sign of *hope* in the midst of suffering and death. Currently, the war in the middle east is ongoing, governments with strong military power continue to exert their strength while thousands and thousands of innocent people are dying.

Closer to home, we try to make sense of our own social, political and economic struggles. There is great anticipation of the upcoming political elections, with many hoping that there will be a change.

My sisters and brothers, it is easy to fall into a culture of hopelessness and despair. We need to remind ourselves that we are celebrating Easter in this context. For us, the Easter Celebration is all about God's ultimate victory in the resurrected Jesus, over and above threats preventing us from living our humanity to the full. The Easter stories are stories of *hope*, announcing *hope* to a broken world.

Easter truly provides a *hope* that shatters this life's hardship and circumstances. It is a *hope* that death has truly been beaten; that no matter what this broken world throws at us, death has indeed lost its sting. It is a *hope* that God intends to make all things new.

*Alleluia! Christ is risen!
A Happy Easter to you all.*

With love, Selwyn