

AN EASTER MESSAGE FROM FATHER BILL



CHRIST IS RISEN! Our Lenten pilgrimage has reached its destination. From year to year the observances and disciplines of Lent help us to renew our relationship with the Lord and overcome our sin and self-centered ways. Now we enter in to the 50 days of the Easter Season, culminating with the celebration of the Ascension of the Lord and the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Each year, the Saturday evening Easter Vigil Mass takes place after sunset. Our church lies in darkness and expectation. Then a match is struck in the darkness and the Easter fire is lit, representing Christ's return from the darkness of the tomb. We remember and we celebrate, as the deacon elevates the Easter Candle, that Jesus Christ is the light that dispels the darkness of our world.

One person alone in a crowd can appear to be of little significance. One candle by itself can appear to be a small thing. But one candle can easily give light to another and then we see how its own light increases as it gives its flame to another. So it is at the Easter Vigil Mass. The light of Christ is passed one person to another and slowly but surely, the church is illuminated by that light. When we unite ourselves with the Risen Christ, we can become such a light not just in ritual but in our daily life. With God's grace we have the power to move back the darkness inside ourselves and all around us. Whenever one heart kindles another, Christ is rising again. Whenever one person forgives another, Christ is rising again. Whenever one hand feeds or helps another, Christ is rising again and the light of faith, hope and love is passed on once more.

Easter tells us that the light endures. It shines on in the darkness and the darkness will never overcome it because that light began when God Himself said: "Let there be light!" And it was wonderfully re-created when God, in effect, raised Christ by the hand that very first Easter. By His glorious resurrection, Jesus forever triumphed over death and darkness. He forever revealed God's light and God's love for all people, places and times.

This year the experience of Lent, Holy Week and Easter is certainly very different from anything we have experienced before. In a society which often gives disproportionate praise and honor to Hollywood celebrities and professional sports stars, this year we recognize and honor the unsung heroes in our midst today. We think of the first responders, hospital staff, janitors and cleaning services, bus drivers, truck drivers, delivery persons, trash collectors and many others. They are living examples of light in the darkness.

There is an old saying that goes something like this: *If you don't know where you are going in life, then almost any road will get you there.* This Easter, despite the coronavirus crisis all around us, as believers we do know where we are going and the road we are invited to take to get us there. The annual Lenten pilgrimage to Holy Week is the spiritual path we walk to remain mindful of the perpetual promise of new life & Easter resurrection. Holy Week reminds us that sometimes in the span of a single day any of us can experience both joy and sadness. We can learn that a child has been born and that a loved one has suddenly died. We can experience help from a total stranger and then fail to show kindness to a loved one or family member. Our hopes and tears, our questions and pains can be sudden and often surprising. The Good Friday cross of Christ is a reminder that Jesus also has endured all these things with us and for us. He came to embrace the messiness of our human condition and to sanctify it by his unflinching grace. In Christ, God will always meet us and sustain us in our crosses and point us to the victory of an Easter Sunday resurrection.

May we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus who is the resurrection and the light of the world. May we all carry His light and His love into our homes, our families and wherever our personal path may lead us. May we remember one another in prayer especially those most in need of our prayers at this time.

Christ is risen, alleluia! His is the light that can never be extinguished, alleluia!

Please keep these deceased loved ones in your prayers.

THIS WEEK

Sunday 8:00 The Wendelken Family, Elizabeth Dunn
Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family
9:30 Charlie Wolff
11:00 Ross Aronica
Monday 8:00 Cathy DiGrazio
Tuesday 8:00 Victims of the Corona Virus
Wed 8:00 Victims of the Corona Virus
Fri 8:00 Eleanor Culik

NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday 5:00 Dawn Monkiewicz
Sunday 8:00 Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family
10:00 Joyce Bancroft

**PLEASE HELP US KEEP
THESE LISTS UP TO DATE**

PRAY FOR THE ILL OF THE PARISH

Martin Coughlin, Loretta Stephens, Harry Marcoux, John Keane, Tris Windle, David Cousins, Lynne Scalia, Alex Podeszwa, Thomas Stone, Nick Bartick, Pam Hedlund, Len Hedlund, Greg Morongell, Nora Gould, Edan Pearl, Anne Caruso, John M. Pollard, Peter Cruckshank, Bill Hannon, Ivy Davis, Maddy Hayes, Clare Stevenson, Joseph Nosari, Vincent Lencvewski, Jeffrey Wolfgang, Joan Ouellette, Bev Sarazin, Tyler Bencotter, Agnes Wolfgang, Fr. Paul Smith, Marilyn Drewes, Ray Castriotta, Julianne Sullivan, Robert Grudzina, Marge LaGrassa, Jim Lewis, Joyce Loechner, Frank Salomone, Chad Larivee, Dick Wentworth, Nuvia Downs, Karen Mary McNulty, Olivia Hart, Alex Haas, Patrick Devine, Gerry Csaposs, Peggy Carson, Addie Priess, Frank McCarthy, Andree Yager, Loretta Reiter, Paul Kasczak, Patty Camarra, James Manley, Betty Babcock, Thomas Murphy, Chris Frazier, Melissa K., Baby Lillian Thoman, Jessica O., Fran McDonagh, Donna Hibbert, Margaret Royce, Beth Nixon, Anne O'Brien, Ben McMahan, Gerry Moynihan, Martha Moynihan, Richard Paskiewicz, Mary Rodrigues, Emily Sparks, Stephen Moreau, Paula Madeiro, Paul Brandon, Rita Folger, Gerri DiCristina, Kathleen Kilmer, Marguerite Forren, Mary Pickard, Deepthi Moola, Steve Novick, Ernie T., Eleanor Symecko, Susanne Albert, Joseph Wignot, Hector Pelletier, Bob Cunnane

**PRAY FOR OUR ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE
MEN AND WOMEN**

Brandy Nelson, Timothy Horigan, Scott Doucette, Michael Wilson, David Lucas, Sean Lucas, Peter Civita Shayne, Peter Cabral, Gregory DeLuca, Joshua Schmitt, Joseph Long, Brad Howard, Thomas Scudder, Jeffrey Stebbins, Phillip McDonough, David Wilcox, John Amick, David McDonald, Lt. Edward J. Maloney, Andrew Kelley, William James Miller, David Orloski, Stephen Tamarro, Michael L. Hamilton, Thomas Crawford, Aaron Charette, Nicholas McGahey, Edward Pruffer, Brandon Stubbs, Christian P. Goodman, Trevor Lafontaine, Connor Lafontaine, Colin Bracken, Michael Bracken

PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED DECEASED

John Shea, Pauline Laberge, Charles (Chuck) Adorney

ON-LINE GIVING UPDATE—PLEASE REGISTER

We are grateful to all who have donated through our new on-line giving program. **Everyone** who has used or plans on using this system is requested to go to our website and register so that the system can be completed with your info. On the left-hand side of the website home page scroll down beneath the photo of the church until you see the Online Giving Icon. Click the icon which gives you the option to register and also to donate. Registering gives you the ability to manage and track all your donations going forward.



Diocese of Fall River
Office of the Bishop
Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.

Dear Brother and Sisters,

I recognize, as you do, that we are facing the most challenging time we have ever seen with this pandemic of the coronavirus. Because of it, we will have the most unusual Easter we have ever seen, without being able to go to church, to participate in the Mass, to receiving the sacraments and celebrate the joy that Easter brings.

This year, we are left with our faith and our hope for better days soon. We have gone through a real Lent of tremendous sacrifice, but we cannot lose faith or hope knowing that this crisis will pass. When it is over, we can rebuild our world and our lives. Counting on God's help and with strong faith, we will be better people and build a better world.

Blessings on you and your family, and may we experience the peace of the risen Christ in our hearts.

My prayers for best wishes for a blessed Easter to all of you.


Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V.,
Bishop of Fall River

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LOOK FOR LOVE

“He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said.” We, much like the women at the tomb, are astonished. Yet one wonders why we should be so amazed, or even doubtful of this possibility. Is it not perfectly reasonable that the Creator of all Life should also hold sway over death? Yet, the nature of resurrection and its ultimate meaning eludes us. How are we – finite beings – to grasp this awesome Mystery? How are we to live its promise in our daily lives?

In her essay *“Here If You Need Me”*, Kate Braestrup, chaplain to the Maine Warden Service, writes about a search and rescue mission for a little girl:

“Frank, one of the wardens, had found the child under the ice of a small pond. Acting quickly he pulled her out of the cutting water. Cradling her as he would one of his two granddaughters, Frank tried to resuscitate her – but to no avail.

“I pulled her out just like this’, Frank tells Kate later – he made a cradle with his wet arms – ‘God, she must have been so cold! She must have been so scared! How is this part of God’s plan,’ Frank mused painfully. ‘Where is God in all of this?’”

It was the same question Kate had heard her own children ask when her husband – their dad – had died a few years earlier: *“Why did Dad die?”*

Kate tells Frank and her children and all of us this Easter: *“If you want to know where God is in this – or in anything – look for love.*

“Look for love – here is my answer in a nutshell: Frank took the child from the ice with his own hands, tried to give her his own breath, and his heart broke when he could not save her life. Frank is the answer – love is the answer.”

Easter calls us out of our tombs of darkness – out of the icy grasp of fear; out of the lethargy of depressive thinking; out of suffocating isolation; out of numbing behaviors. The Jesus who rose from the dead now lives in us – in our love, our compassion, our willingness to forgive. We *become* the answer to *“Where is God in all of this?”*

Easter is more than an empty tomb. Easter is a *mindset*, a belief in the living Presence of Christ in our midst. Easter is a *heart-set* – a sense of the Breath of Love constantly breathing new life and light into our souls. Let us then rejoice; be glad; and *be* love – for Christ has risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Coronavirus Prayer

Jesus Christ,

you traveled through towns and villages curing every disease and illness.

At your command, the sick were made well.

Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus,

that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus.

May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear,

which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride,

which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all,

stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus.

May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died.

As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair.

May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process.

May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations.

Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve.

Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks.

May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad,

surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us.

Kerry Weber is an Executive Editor of America Magazine, taken from www.americamagazine.com