

Dear friends of Christ, today the universal Church rejoices with one voice as it celebrates the greatest miracle of our Lord Jesus Christ, that is, His Resurrection from the dead. Christ is Risen, A lleuia, A lleuia! The belief in the Resurrection of Christ is one of the central tenets of our Catholic Faith. The Catechism reminds us that, "The Resurrection constitutes above all the confirmation of all that Christ Himself did and taught. All truths, even the most inaccessible to human reason, find their justification in Christ by rising again has given the definitive proof which He had promised, of His divine authority" (cf. CCC651-653). Our belief in the Resurrection comes from the many witness accounts of the earliest followers and friends of Jesus Christ. St. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians succinctly sums this up with the words: "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born" (1 Cor. 15:38).

Jesus' Resurrection from the dead gives anyone who believes in Him a solid footing for hope. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI once said: "But once Christ is risen, the gravitational pull of love is stronger than that of hatred; the force of gravity of life is stronger than that of death. Perhaps this is actually the situation of the Church in every age, perhaps it is our situation? It always seems as if she ought to be sinking, and yet she is always already saved. Saint Paul illustrated this situation with the words: 'We are as dying, and behold we live' (2 Cor 6:9). The Lord's saving hand holds us up, and thus we can already sing the song of the saved, the new song of the risen ones: Allelulia!" Let us rejoice because our Lord, Jesus Christ has risen from the dead!

On behalf of the parish pastoral team, we would like to wish you and your family members a Holy and Blessed Easter.

Pax Christi, Fr. Thomas