

## HOMILY: EASTER SUNDAY

If Christ has not risen, vain is your faith. (1Cor, 15, 17)

But we know that our faith is not in vain that is why we have come to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

Easter is the day of the Lord, a day full of divine love and mercy. Easter is indeed a great feast; a feast unique in its greatness through the majesty of the Risen Christ.

The gospel of today presents the visit of Mary of Magdala to the tomb and her report to the two disciples: Peter and John.

Mary of Magdala followed Jesus during his ministry in Galilee, in Jerusalem, and right up to the cross.

Mary saw the healing she received from Jesus as a sign of love and as an invitation to put her life completely at the service of Jesus and of her brothers and sisters in the early Church.

It was her discovery of the empty tomb, and her report which obliged the disciples to begin their faith journey.

The disciples had to turn away from their image of a Jesus who was dead and buried in a tomb to a Jesus who was alive and in their midst in a new way.

In the first reading Peter gives a summary of Christ's public life and mission. He stresses the truth of the resurrection by citing witnesses, including himself, who had not only seen the Risen Lord but who had spoken to him and actually eaten with him.

In other words, Peter makes the resurrection the basic and the crowning proof of the truth of the Christian faith.

St Paul puts this idea beautifully in his first letter to the Corinthians 15:14

**"If Christ has not risen, vain is our preaching; vain, too, is your faith."**

The second reading tells us that Easter is not simply the recollection of a past event. It also celebrates our own participation in the risen life, initiated in baptism and nourished in the Holy Communion.

That is, according to Paul, the Christian life is a new life, a life of unity in Christ.

So today as we celebrate the feast of the resurrection let us recall that in raising Jesus to new life, God has offered us the hope of everlasting life and happiness with him.

We should be grateful for his generosity and remember that he also calls us to a new and better life on earth.

Through the grace of the death and the resurrection of Jesus we are to die to our sinful ways and live more fully as God's children.

Let us allow the resurrection to restore and transform us in the Risen Lord.

We should let our celebration of Easter turn our lives around as the resurrection of Jesus turned around the lives of the disciples. The resurrection helped them to embark on their faith journey.

In the power of the resurrection we can change our lives from guilty to innocent, from lost to saved and from death to life.

What I am saying is that our celebration of Easter should help us to live our faith. After all our baptism initiated us into a life lived according to the teachings of Christ, a life of witnessing to his truth.

May the grace of Easter purify our minds, hearts and bodies so that we may continue to grow in wisdom, spirit and truth in the strength and power of the Risen Lord.

Happy Easter to you!!!