



Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador

April 10th, 2022

Bishop's Easter Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Christ is risen! Through his cross, he has taken on our sufferings, our sorrows and our sins, he has joined us in our death so that we may have new life in him.

In a world, conscious of its own faults and failings, and struggling to comprehend the place of sin, suffering and death, Christ continues to enter through the doors we have locked out of fear, so that we may touch his wounds and come to know that God does not abandon us in our time of need, but joins us in our death, troubles and confusion, so that we too may journey from death to new life.

Christ does not abandon us when he ascends into heaven, but intercedes for us at the right hand of the Father, sending us the gift of the Spirit so that his Church may be animated by his mercy and his love. He continues to journey with us now, as he makes himself known in the sacraments and command he left us – “Love one another as I have loved you”; equipping us for greater union with him and with one another, in a spirit of communion and of love.

I pray that you may never grow tired of drawing near to him as he draws near to us, coming together as brothers and sisters in Christ, not only to celebrate our joy in the Mystery of our Salvation, but in the unity he longs to build among us, especially in our most basic needs. We are weak when separated by locked doors and walls that divide us, persons, families and faith communities focused almost exclusively on their own well-being, but we are strong, trusting in Christ's mercy and compassion, when we dare to step out in faith together into a world in desperate need of God's gifts of faith, hope and love.

May the Easter message give you new vision and courage, dispelling all self-centeredness and fear. Christ is Risen. Sealed tombs, locked doors and fearful hearts cannot restrain him. He goes before us and walks with us. Let us not be afraid.

Faternally in Christ,

Bishop Bart van Roijen

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