



2017 CATHOLIC EASTER MESSAGE: ARCHBISHOP JULIAN PORTEOUS

“The essential Easter message is one of hope, the triumph of hope over the darkness that can enshroud our lives.

St John tells us that as Jesus entered the final stages of his dying a darkness came over the whole earth. Jesus rose on the following Sunday. He rose as the dawn broke. The darkness of death gave way to the light of the Resurrection. Easter is about the victory of light over darkness.

Darkness can come upon our lives when we are confronted by our own personal crises such as financial trouble, marital breakdown, or serious life threatening illness. We sense a powerlessness and our future is in jeopardy. Fear can beset us. We can find ourselves anxious and uncertain. Our sense of hope and optimism can evaporate. We can feel ourselves a victim of powers of destruction. We can find ourselves crying out, "why me".

These are the moments of darkness where the dark seems supreme and all light has gone. But there is a light that can dispel the darkness. Christ is this light that triumphs over the darkness.

One of the messages of Easter is that no matter how difficult and painful a particular crisis in our life may seem we should never lose hope. We turn to Jesus, the risen Lord. He is ready to take our burdens and renew us in body, soul and mind. He is the resurrection and the light.”

Archbishop Julian Porteous
31 March, 2017.