



## Easter Message - March 2022

The theme of Easter is that death has been defeated for Jesus is raised from the dead and is Lord. Those who believe and are baptised share in this resurrection to new life. So Easter is not only the dying and rising of Jesus, but our dying and rising as well. We live in a world where there is a lot of death. I refer to the conflict in Ukraine. Wars of any kind result in death and destruction.

Throughout life we can also experience those “little deaths” that come as a result of sickness, depression, unemployment, discrimination, loneliness, poverty, domestic violence and abuse. These experiences often devastate us as we cry out for help.

We presume that we have a network of friends to call upon at these times and yet the truth of Easter is that we have the greatest friend of all who has already shown us the way.

Jesus of course is more than a friend. He’s the one who walks with us through thick and thin. Easter in this sense offers us restoration and an invitation to be full of hope in the midst of fear or doubt.

On the morning of the resurrection, some women went to Jesus’ tomb to mourn. As I reflect on the state of our world at present and the effects it has had on our lives, it appears that we too journey with the women to the tomb to mourn. But hear the words spoken to the women: “Why look among the dead for someone who is alive? He is not here; he has risen.”

The women told the disciples that Jesus has risen from the dead. For us, the challenge is to live this Easter faith. There is great hope in what looks like a disaster.

We are in fact called to be people of the resurrection and live our lives accordingly. When we enter those periods of trial and tribulation, our faith will inform us that it is not the end of the story. It was not for Jesus – nor is it the end for us.

We are called to be bearers of this Good News into a world that is crying out for something more – something that will sustain it. Easter does not offer something, but someone who is reaching out in the darkness. An Easter faith means simply to believe that it is God’s hand who reaches out in love whether we are happy or sad. As St Paul says: “All things work together for good for those who love God.”

I wish all people a very happy and holy Easter.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Timothy Harris'.

**MOST REV TIMOTHY J HARRIS**  
Bishop of Townsville