# Homily for Easter 2026 Year A

Throughout the past week, Holy Week, we have listened to and closely followed the path that Jesus took towards the end of his life on Earth.

Last Sunday, Palm Sunday, there were shouts of joy and exultation. It was a happy day, full of bright promise and the possibilities of new beginnings.

But by Thursday, Maunday Thursday, the bright promise was beginning to grow dim. With a certain inevitability fate had taken control and all those future plans were being turned upside down.

In the intimacy of the Passover meal, Christ was beginning to say a prolonged goodbye to those He loved, and yet they were hardly aware of it. They were certainly not aware of the tremendous gift He was leaving them in the Eucharist.

Good Friday brought crushing mental and physical suffering and the seemingly appalling finality of a brutal and shameful death.

Likewise, in all of our lives too, that same pattern is often completed.

Many of our plans and dreams start out in joy and happiness and full of bright promise, but how quickly joy can turn to anguish and heartbreak, hope becomes disillusionment and despair.

Now very few people escape those sorts of knocks in life, and for some, of course, life is very, very hard indeed. Many times they are called upon to accept with as much love and resignation as is humanly possible Christ's invitation to "take up your cross and follow me".

But today, Easter Sunday, we celebrate something that puts the awful tragedy of Holy Week and our personal pains and suffering into perspective - Christ is Risen. The amazing implication of that fact will reverberate throughout all of creation and for all time.

Christ has conquered death. The Resurrection will now and forever shatter the power of darkness, negativity and emptiness, especially for the followers of Christ. That is the point that we should focus upon in our personal illness, darkness, and pain.

Pain and death are part of the human condition, the result of Adam's fall. But that is not the whole story, because of Christ the new Adam, and the Resurrection. We now have unlimited hope. In the words of the Requiem Mass, for those who believe, life is changed, not ended. We are never, ever going to die. We are already eternally alive, how we experience existence will change.

No matter how heavy our problems or intense our pain, they have a limit and, in the end, no matter how severe they are, they cannot conquer us, they cannot defeat us. We will fall safely into the arms of the Risen Christ.

For those who believe in and follow the footsteps of Christ, beyond the darkness and pain of Good Friday, there is always the light and joy of an Easter Sunday.

May I wish you a happy and blessed Easter in the joy of the risen Lord.

My Easter gift to you.

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Gustavo Dudamel/SBS Mahler:Symphony No.2 Mov V(2/2)

In these dark times here is 17 minutes of the most glorious music from Mahler's Resurrection Symphony, expressing how to transform the natural apprehension of death into the triumph of eternal life.

Carefully read the English text at the foot of the screen. And watch, if possible, on full screen mode.