

An Easter reflection 2020

After the resurrection, Jesus didn't just say "Peace be with you!", he oozed peace if that is possible. There was an aura of peace that flowed out of him into anyone who welcomed him. In his resurrected presence, former questions began to lose their significance. His presence was everything; it had a gentleness and comfort about it that was reassuring, consoling and heart-warming. There was no inkling of retribution or vengeance for betrayal, sin or evil; and death was nowhere to be seen. His presence was like a light - a light that reassured and coloured everything it encountered in a new way. Mystery was everywhere present within it as an invitation, not a problem or issue to be solved but something with which to be engaged like a journey to be made - a song to be sung - a dance to be danced. Only in being lived would the riches of mystery and its wonders be revealed. Wonders greater than could be expressed by words because they could only find expression in Jesus and what, today, we proclaim as Easter Joy.

We are truly blessed to be able to share this light together. It is both within and around us; it is the light by which we see, by which we breath and experience everything. This is more than a Halo; it is a holy and blessed light. It brings out the sacred in everything that it touches. It was always present in everything that Jesus touched and because of Jesus' resurrection is now present in everything we touch - in each of us who welcome him. Deep-seated within this sacred light peace reigns, and, like Jesus, this peace carries with it true life - the life of God's presence so often hidden from our sight but refreshed and renewed this day. And, this time, Christ's Light is even brighter not because we are better at welcoming it but because we have so much need of it. Stay still, bathe in this light and listen to the music. Hear the echoes of *Oh sacred head ill-used . . . My song is love unknown . . .* and now the *Alleluias* like bells ringing in harmony, sometimes quietly and other times with a crashing beauty that almost lifts the heart out of the body. And, of course that heart-warming call of Jesus: *All are welcome! All are welcome! All are welcome in this place*

Oh, we are so honoured to be part of this mystery. It is as though it was created for each of us individually and also for all of us together at the same time.

Yes; it was because of sin that Jesus came to us. He saw how sin was destroying our ability to love each other even in simple ways. How sin divided us, one against the other. How it isolated us and created envy and greed, and a desire for wealth and power that only destroyed lives. His love for us could not let this self-destruction continue. But, this Easter, I can believe that Jesus would have still come to us even if sin did not exist. His love for us is so great. In living as one of us, to show us how precious we are, he would have found other ways to reveal his love for us. His resurrected presence is proof of it – he couldn't leave us ever again!!

Listen to this story from Anthony de Mello SJ. It shows how the Easter Light of Christ changes the way we see and experience everything:

A writer arrived at the monastery to write a book about the Master. *"People say you are a genius. Are you?"* he asked.

"You might say so," said the Master with a smile.

"And what makes one a genius?" asked the intrepid reporter.

"The ability to see," said the Master.

The writer was betwixt and between. Scratching his head with one hand and rubbing his tummy with the other, he muttered, *"To see what?"*

The Master quietly replied, *"The butterfly in a caterpillar, the eagle in an egg, the saint in a selfish person, life in death, unity in separation, the divine in the human and the human in the divine."*

And finally

In the Easter letter before his death, Bishop Klaus Hemmerle of Aachen wrote, *"I wish each of us Easter eyes, able to perceive in death, life; in guilt, forgiveness; in separation, unity; in wounds, glory; in the human, God; in God, the human; and in the I, the You."*

These are our Easter wishes for you all. ***Alleluia! Alleluia!***

An Easter egg goes to see his therapist:

Therapist: Well what's up with you today

Easter Egg: I don't know Doc. I feel so hollow inside!!

Easter egg hunts prove that your child can find anything when they want to.

The Pastor grabs a parishioner by the hand as he leaves the Easter Service and pulls him to one side. The Pastor said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!" The parishioner replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor." So the Pastor asks, "How come I only ever see you at Christmas and at Easter?" The Parishioner whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."