

Homily Easter Vigil/Sunday 2021

Celebrating the Vigil and Easter without a congregation last year was close to heart-breaking. It felt like the emptiness that the Mother of Jesus and his disciples must have experienced after Jesus' death, as they came to the tomb. It brought home the importance of our Assumptionist Community. Reassured by being together, we were also comforted to know that you were present in spirit on-line. As always with God, the celebration offered the comforting promise of new life and hope in the future even without knowing when that would be. A year has passed - a year in a wilderness that has been extremely difficult for many even as it opened us to deeper truths about the immense goodness, unlimited generosity, self-giving love and compassion in ourselves, our families and in others, especially the NHS. With your presence, the Easter light this year is much brighter and much more refreshing. It reassures us. Resurrection has dawned, even if more slowly than on that first resurrection day. It comes with the original promise, exultation and heartfelt joy of the first and urges us to sing Alleluia! (*Even if we're not supposed to!*). So, let this reinvigorating Easter in! Be filled with its refreshing, reassuring and uplifting joy.

"On Letting Easter In." (Macrina Wiederkehr)

When dawn stands still with wonder,
when birds jubilate in the trees,
when buds hurry into blossoms
and grass starts wearing green,
I always know that Easter wants to come again.

But deeper yet and richer still
when Jesus, who is imprisoned in me,
asks me to roll away the stone that locks me in.
Then, Easter wants to come again.

So, let it come.

It's one dawn past rising time and Resurrection is the wildest news
that's ever touched this crazy, mixed-up world.

It says, yes! when everything else say, no!
It says, up! when everything else says, down!
It says, live! when everything else says, die!

Easter's standing at your door again,
so, don't you see, that stone has got to go?
That stone of fear, of selfishness and pride
of greed and blindness
and all the other stones we use to keep Jesus in the tomb.

So, here's to rolling stones away
to give our Lord the chance He needs to rise
and touch a troubled, lonely world.

We call it Resurrection.

It's wild with wonder, it's beautiful and real.

Intent on throwing life around, it touches and it heals!

Yes, Easter, you can come. An angel of life I'll be.

I'll roll the stone away and set you free.

Why did the Easter egg hide? Because he was a little chicken! Chocolate comes from cocoa, which is a tree. That makes it a plant. Therefore, chocolate is salad. Happy Easter!