

## Homily 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Year C 2022

Rather than spend time proving the resurrection let us reflect on what it means to us. Resurrection speaks of hope. **Hope** in the knowledge that Christ is alive and wants us to be alive as well. Pope Francis speaks of the hope that Jesus Christ brings to each of us and to the entire world. We are renewed by Christ!

Christ is alive. He comes to us in the eucharist, remains in us and never abandons us. The risen Jesus is also a light represented by our easter candle. However far we may wander, Jesus Christ is always there to restore our strength and our hope, calling on us to return to him and to start afresh.

The Resurrection of Christ is the principle of new life for all of us that comes in Baptism and for older people begins with a conversion of heart and conscience. This new life encourages us to respond to social injustice, homelessness, humanitarian crises, and calls us to work for freedom and peace. It calls us to be hope *for victims of on-going conflict* and to be builders of bridges, not walls.

The Risen Lord invites us to open our hearts to the needs of the disadvantaged, the poor and vulnerable, the unemployed, the outcasts, and to all who knock on the door in search of bread, refuge, and acknowledgement of their human dignity.

Christ is alive! He is hope for each of us and the entire world. He invites us to be renewed by him!

There is a poem that tells of the strength and importance of hope called '**Four Candles**'. The candles represent **Peace, Faith, Love and Hope**. The first candle, which was peace, went out because the world was so full of violence and fighting. The second candle said "*I am Faith but I am no longer needed in this world*" and with that it went out. Then the third candle began to speak saying "*I am love. People don't understand my importance, so they put me aside and they even forget to love those closest to them*" Love's flame then went out too. A child then entered the room – saw the four candles and wondered why only one was lit as they were all meant to be alight until the end of time. The fourth candle responded "*Don't be afraid, I am **hope** and while I am still burning, we can re-light the other candles*". The child's eyes were shining as she/he picked up the candle of hope and re-lit the other four.

The child was told the greatest of these is love but the candle of hope should never go out in your life. With hope each of us can live with peace, faith and love!

Jesus in John 8:12 said "***I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have life filled with light and never live in the dark.***" *From a work by Susan van Zyl*

### **A Rabbi and his friend, a Catholic priest, were having a chat**

when the rabbi asked "*Could you ever be promoted in your church?*"

The priest responded, "*Well, one day, I hope to become a bishop.*"

The rabbi asked, "*And then?*"

The priest thought for a second and responded, "*Well, then I might become a cardinal.*"

The rabbi again asked, "*And then?*"

The priest again pondered the question before responding "*Then I could become Pope!*"

The rabbi, still unsatisfied, asked "*And then?*"

The priest, exasperated, cried "*What else could I become? God Himself!?*"

The rabbi quietly responded "*Well! One of our boys made it*"