

## Easter Message

We have now entered into the Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil), the most important season in the Church's liturgical year. But this year we are experiencing it in a totally unique way. Without the benefit of gathering as a faith community, in order that we may together give thanksgiving, praise and worship to God. Not only is this happening here in Ottawa, but across Canada and around much of the world. In St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem there will be no public worship. This, of course, is due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On a personal level this time can be a hardship for many of you, as some have health or financial concerns, and none of us can get together with family or friends with whom we do not live. Yet we are grateful for them, and all who in this time of need continue to be there for us. Especially those "front line" workers that includes doctors, nurses, paramedics, pharmacists, PSW's, police, firefighters, grocery store workers, bank tellers, cleaners, and many more. What would we do without their continued presence and help? We also are grateful to those within our parish community who reach out to each other. This includes members of our Knights, CWL, and other ministries.

What to say? I think we need to remember that what we are going through right now will pass. This is not permanent. And we do not go through it alone. We are all in it together. We may not be in the same room with each other but we are all united by the same experience. And we are also united by faith. So, let us try to approach it through the eyes of faith.

The only thing permanent, in fact eternal, is God and His love. God is love. The Holy Trinity is a communion of love. God loved this world into existence

and He created human beings out of love. When we fell into sin, the Father's love sent His only begotten Son into the world that by Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection we might be reconciled to Him. And reconciled to the Father through Christ, we gain everlasting life with Him.

This weekend we celebrate this marvelous thing that Jesus Christ has done for us. We may not be able to get together to worship, but we are united in spirit. We do not see each other, but God sees us all. And our individual prayers and our individual thanksgivings join together and rise to heaven like a great chorus, singing God's praises. Darkness has fled before the Light. Death has been conquered by Life. Sorrow has turned into joy. For Christ is risen, truly He is risen! Alleluia!

May the love of God be in your hearts. And may God bless all of you this Easter. Father Lindsay Harrison

