



EASTER 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord. "Peace be with you."

Thus, the sacred scriptures present the first words of Christ in His Resurrection. The Lord Jesus, calmly, gently and warmly greets His friends, disciples, and us, in the familiar, traditional Jewish manner; "Shalom". True peace is His great gift to the believer, especially, when we are in fear, doubt, separation and, even, sin. This is the time when we feel most in need of His Peace. Normally, we would have observed Holy Week together in the church. Normally, we would celebrate Easter Sunday Mass with each other, but not this Easter, not this year. In an intense way, this year invites us to consider the One who lives, the One who draws us into His Risen Life, and the One who brings us Peace, in this Eastertide leading us to the culmination of Easter at Pentecost, the Day of the Holy Spirit. Though we are separated from one another, in Him, we are 'in communion'. He dwells within us by grace and by Baptism. In Confirmation, He strengthens us to be His Body and sends us to be the bearers of His Peace, in faith, in hope and, especially, in love; for "God is Love".



Throughout this Eastertide, I suggest that in every home, every day, all would pray the prayer for His Peace, offered at every Mass, just before Holy Communion:

"Lord Jesus Christ, who said to Your apostles, Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of Your Church, and graciously grant Her peace and unity in accordance with Your will. Who live and reign forever and ever. ~ Amen"

It is my well-founded hope that every home in the parish has, at least, one crucifix. I urge you to position it in the place of greatest honour in your home; in the family room, the kitchen, the dining room or the living room. I ask that you drape a white material – cloth, ribbon, or paper - over the crucifix, as you see in the photo of my crucifix. This old one is dear to me, as it belonged to my father from when he was about seventeen years of age.



Let us all allow this simple image of the Resurrection and of the burial cloth of the Lord, remind us that 'He is Risen'. His Resurrection is forever present. It is present to us. We purposely proclaim 'Christ is Risen; not 'was risen' but 'is Risen'. The Resurrection is now, and astonishingly, it is to us that He grants us the joy of His Risen and eternal Life. Especially this year, each day of Eastertide, let us pray, the Peace Prayer; that we may see by His Light, be comforted by His Presence and live in His Peace. "Shalom; Peace be with you".

Praying for you in daily Mass and wishing you a blessed Easter, I am
Sincerely yours,

Father Brennan