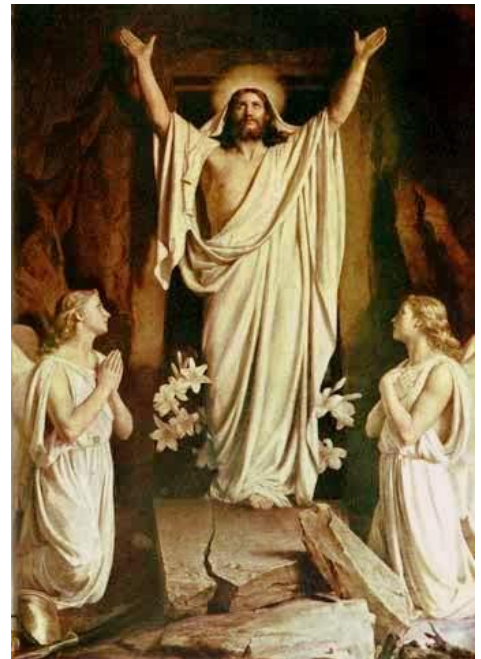


## *EASTER MESSAGE*

*“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen” (Lk 24:5)*

*These words of the two angels spoken to the faithful women who rushed to the tomb at the break of dawn, my dear friends, kindle hope within their spirit. These faithful women and disciples of Jesus had experienced the tragic events culminating in Christ’s suffering and crucifixion. They had experienced sadness, confusion, and disappointment in the face of these events. In the hour of Jesus’ trial, however, they had not given up - they had not abandoned their Lord. Thus, early in the morning, they decided to visit where Jesus was buried in order to see Him one last time. They were moved by love, the same love that led them to follow Him throughout His ministry, all the way to the Cross. Surprisingly, they did not know that a new day had dawned. A new day that would change the course of history as well as for everyone who have been in this journey with the Lord.*



*Dear friends in Christ, we have been in this journey with Him. We have travelled through dark times, seeking signs of life. The past few years have been difficult for many of us in various ways and dimensions. The current situation of Covid 19 pandemic, as a case in hand, has affected and impacted the lives of many of us. We have felt isolated and experienced losses, pain and suffering which has inflicted so many hardships and untold difficulties of various shapes and forms. We may even ask, “How can life be the same ever again? Where do we go from here?”*

*We have asked these same questions as a Christian community and members of Christ’s faithful. However, we have faith and hope that the current and present situation of Covid 19 will not have the final say and that life will continue. Indeed, we look to the future with anticipation and hope, trusting in Christ who defeated sin and death and won for us eternal life. And, with Saint Paul, we are more confident in Christ’s redemptive mystery of life and resurrection. A new life in Christ is simply our hope! (Colossians 3:1-4)*

*Happy Easter my friends in Christ!*

*Fr. Francis Chidi Ezenezi*

*Pastor*

*Saint Peter’s the Apostle Roman Catholic Parish*

*North Bay, ON*

*April 17, 2022*



