

Our Lady of the Airways Parish

Solemnity of Easter, 2020



Dear Friends in Christ,

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Over the past few weeks, our global family has been enveloped by a shroud of fear and anxiety as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Fear and anxiety have come to us in various forms: the possible transmission of the virus; restrictions in our movements through social distancing protocols; uncertain financial hardships due to a rapidly changing economic landscape; supply shortages because of hysterical buying by some within our society... just to name a few. We can be so tempted to let these things easily trouble us.

Although we are undoubtedly living in difficult and trying times, as people of faith, our lives always remain centered on Jesus Christ, Who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. It is the light of Christ that enlightens our steps as we walk in this valley of tears. A spiritual writer once commented: *“Deep down we are all afraid: of suffering, or of dying, or of God’s judgment, or of the unknown, or of weakness, or of our lives slipping out of control.... Faith casts out fear as lights casts out darkness. God has shone his light into our world, and it is stronger than darkness. That Light is Jesus Christ.”*

On this Easter Sunday, we celebrate one of the central tenets of our faith - faith that casts out fear - with the great mystery of our Lord’s resurrection from the dead. We profess this central belief every time we recite the Creed with the words: *“...He suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.”*

With the psalmist, we are able to joyfully say, *“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad”* (Psalm 118:24). We rejoice and are glad because of the profound message of that very first Easter, which reminds us that **life never ends and love never dies**. We rejoice and are glad because Easter is a symbol of hope, renewal, and new life. As people of faith, we know that our life extends beyond this earthly reality. We have been created for a greater purpose, and so we set our sights towards our heavenly destination. As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI reminded us: *“Faith in the resurrection of Jesus says that there is a future for every human being; the cry for unending life which is a part of the person is indeed answered. God exists: that is the real message of Easter.”*

Although we have been separated during these difficult times, be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones. I especially gather your intentions and offer them up with the bread and wine, each time I celebrate my daily private Mass. I long for the day when we can once again gather as a family at the altar of the Lord.

On behalf of the pastoral team - Fr. Canisius, Enza and Johnathann - we wish each of you and your loved ones a blessed and safe Easter!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Thomas Lim