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Website: www.malinparish.ie

Details on the times of online **Masses and Prayers** for the Covid 19 Crisis : <https://www.catholicbishops.ie>

Mass Leaflets for each Sunday are available in the churches and parish shops along with weekly Bulletins.

Happy and Joyful Easter to all Parishioners and global friends !!

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Yes, It's Still True – A Sermon for Easter, Matthew 28:1-10

“He is not here; he has been raised, as he said” It's true. It's all true. Christ is risen!

That's the only thing that needs to be said today. In some ways it's the only thing that can be said. That Jesus has been raised from the dead is the only thing I really have to tell you today. Nothing more. Nothing less. It's the same thing the angel told the two women who went to Jesus' tomb. He didn't tell them once but twice. “He is not here; he has been raised.” “He has been raised from the dead.” It was true. They saw Jesus. They touched him. They heard his voice. It was all true.

St. Matthew doesn't offer much more than that in his account of the gospel (Matthew 28:1-10). He does not explain how it happened, only that it did. He is more interested in us living the truth of this story than he is in us knowing the details of the story. The truth of this story, as he tells it, is earth shaking. It changes the ground on which we stand and the way in which we live.

Every year we come to this day wanting only one thing. We want to be told and reminded that the story is true, that it can be trusted, that it is a reality in our lives.

Why do I say that? Why do we come here every year wanting to be reminded the story is true?

Because we want to believe Christ's promise to his disciples that he would not be held by death and that from the apparent tragedy of his death would come hope for all those who believe in Him and attempt to follow Him. The pain of rejection, denial and betrayal which He experienced in His last days have been replaced by the overcoming of death and sin, through His obedience to God's purpose for His life. All of us come to Easter with the awareness of the darkness, failure and tragedy of our lives and our world. This year with Covid 19, we also bring the darkness of fear, of grief, of uncertainty and of global anxiety.

That's why we come here today wanting to be reminded this story is true. And you know what? We never leave disappointed. We always leave here knowing that the truth of Easter – life, light, joy, hope – is greater than the truth of what brought us here.

We bring our personal darkness and fear, along with communal, national and global darkness to our celebration of Easter this year. Many are today sitting in the midst of darkness.

But the good news is that we came to the right place. We have come to the ONLY place which helps us face the darkness. We will not leave disappointed. The angel's message to the women in today's gospel is the Church's message to us today. “He has been raised from the dead.” It is still true.

The story is true. You can count on it. It's for all of us and our lives. It was true yesterday, it is true today, and it will be true tomorrow. Sometimes it takes months or even years for resurrection to free us from the tomb and pull us out of the darkness but it will. That is the promise of today. God never leaves anyone in the darkness of the tomb.

The stone has been rolled away from the tomb. The day dawns with a new light. The earth quakes in celebration and joy. Christ is risen and in him so have you and I.

That's why our churches are (normally) filled with light, candles, flowers, and alleluias. Those are not just decorations and songs, they are God's truth about your life and my life. They are the signs of Easter truth and resurrection reality.

Today reminds us that the light of resurrection always prevails. Darkness cannot overcome the light. Regardless of who you are, the light prevails. Regardless of what you have done or left undone, the light prevails. Regardless of your doubts or beliefs, the light prevails. Regardless of your life's circumstances, the light prevails. The light of resurrection always wins. Everything about today says we can trust that.

That changes everything about how we live. We now live everyday as Easter. Christ's resurrection is not a one day celebration. It is a way of life. It means every cross flowers with new life, every tomb becomes a womb of new birth, and every darkness has been overcome by light.

It's true. It's still true. Christ is risen!

PRAYER OF BLESSING OF THE EASTER CANDLE DURING THE EASTER VIGIL

**Christ yesterday and today, The beginning and the end
Alpha and Omega; All time belongs to Him
And all the ages; To Him be glory and power
Through every age for ever. Amen.**

May I Always Find My Satisfaction in You

Dear Lord, may I realize afresh today what Your death and resurrection mean for me. Forgiveness, freedom, and the ability to walk with You through this fallen world into eternity. May I always find my satisfaction in You and Your willingness to offer Yourself to me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Let Us Have Hearts of Thankfulness

**Lord God,
You loved this world so much,
That you gave your one and only Son,
That we might be called your children too.
Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace
Of Easter Sunday, everyday.
Let us have hearts of thankfulness
For your sacrifice.
Let us have eyes that look upon
Your grace and rejoice in our salvation.
Help us to walk in that mighty grace
And tell your good news to the world.
All for your glory do we pray, Lord, Amen.**

Draw Us Forth

Draw us forth, God of all creation. Draw us forward and away from limited certainty into the immense world of your love. Give us the capacity to even for a moment taste the richness of the feast you give us. Give us the peace to live with uncertainty, with questions, with doubts. Help us to experience the resurrection anew with open wonder and an increasing ability to see you in the people of Easter. Amen.