

Easter Day – Resurrection Day!

On this glorious Easter morning we celebrate with great joy that Christ is risen from the dead!

Regina caeli, laetare! Queen of Heaven, rejoice!

One can scarcely imagine the rapture of Our Blessed Lady to see her God and her Son – Whom she bore in the womb, to Whom she gave flesh, which Body and Blood He offered on the Cross when Mary's heart was pierced as the spear pierced the Side of Jesus – now standing before her, that same Body (and Divine Person) – from her womb – now raised, transformed by resurrection power and glorified! Regina caeli, laetare! "I am He Who died! – and behold! I am alive for evermore!"

In this time of pestilence, the Risen Jesus stands in our midst and invites us to open the door to Him, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock, if anyone open that door, I will come in and sup with him and he with me". Let us not keep the Risen Saviour locked out of our lives by stubborn disobedience and hardened hearts but throw open the door and invite Him to be seated on the throne of our hearts and to reign as Lord in our lives. Come Lord Jesus!

If we are permitted to be amongst those who survive this present pestilence then we must promise and commit ourselves to living differently. To live more simply. To live more kindly. To live more generously. To live more worshipfully and prayerfully – because there are other plagues with us, the plague of famine in the world, the mass killing of the unborn, the changing climate, the degradation and destruction of the environment. We cannot return to "normal" if (God willing) we come through this crisis – closing our ears to the poor, to the cries of the unborn, to the dying of creation. If we are permitted to survive this plague we must become different people – recovering the faith we have lost, re-centring ourselves in those values and truths which are deeper than ephemeral culture, changing tastes and passing fashions.

Many Catholics, many Christians, many people have found that, in the face of death, their faith has not been strong enough – the prospect of immediate and sudden death has found us unprepared – sins to be confessed, relationships to be restored, faith in need of repair.

Easter Sunday to Divine Mercy Sunday offers us an Octave of Prayer for Divine Mercy. How much we need, how conscious we are of our need of, Divine Mercy. Above all, the spiritual mercies of an authentic and deep repentance, the grace to make an act of true contrition, the gift of a heart-to-heart consecration to Jesus.

" For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world"

I invite you to a new consecration (in this Octave of Prayer between Easter Sunday and Divine Mercy Sunday) to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, through the prayers of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We implore the maternal prayers and intercession of Our Blessed Lady to petition her Divine Son, seated at the right hand of the Father, to send down the Holy Spirit in a New Pentecost – convicting our consciences, warming our hearts, illumining our minds, forgiving our sins –

" Come Holy Spirit! And fill the hearts of the faithful

Enkindle in us the fire of Your love

And renew the face of the earth!"