



Brothers and sisters!

Happy Easter to you! I hope you are well. What an extraordinary Easter we celebrate this year – though at first glance you might wonder what there is to celebrate! Many are suffering and are tempted to feel that we have nowhere to turn as science, our governments and the knowledge we have developed to this point in history offer us no solutions. And yet, in the midst of loss, uncertainty and suffering, something incredible is happening! We are noticing, perhaps for the first time, the bonds which form our human family. Bonds that we previously took for granted or ignored. As we live in isolation and we all

become marginalized and vulnerable, the global suffering we are seeing has made it startlingly apparent to us that we need other people and other people need us too! It is as though the stone that covers the tomb is slowly being rolled back to allow a light of recognition. This light heralds Easter and the Risen Christ. Be assured that in the darkness of this crisis, the light of Christ will shine! Jesus is truly risen! He will not die again. May Jesus rise for people around the world through our love! ***Christ Is Risen! Христос Воскрес!***  
- Fr. Andre

All our liturgical services during Easter Week continue to be ‘**closed to the public**’, but this doesn’t mean that we cannot pray and celebrate the joy of Christ’s Resurrection at home. In addition to your own personal prayers and with your family, you are encouraged to participate in the following services:

April 12 EASTER SUNDAY	8:00AM – Matins & Divine Liturgy	Closed to the public - <a href="#">Livestreamed</a>
April 13 Bright Monday	10:00AM – Divine Liturgy	Closed to the public - <a href="#">Livestreamed</a>
April 14 Bright Tuesday	10:00AM – Divine Liturgy	Closed to the public - <a href="#">Livestreamed</a>
April 18 Bright Saturday	9:00AM – Divine Liturgy	Closed to the public
April 19 Thomas Sunday	9:30AM – Divine Liturgy	Closed to the public - <a href="#">Livestreamed</a>

**A note on praying the Liturgy remotely:** Some have found it helpful to create a prayer space around the device they use to watch the Livestreamed Liturgy, occupying a different space or posture than they would if they were using the same device to do work or watch a movie on Netflix. With that in mind, consider lighting a candle and placing it next to your computer or tablet, enthrone your favourite icon(s) and have other religious objects (like a prayer rope or rosary) at hand to help you to enter more fully in the prayer. Dress like you would as if you are going to church (i.e. not in pyjamas); sit and stand as we usually do in church.

## **Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in these Holy Gifts! I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot receive You now, I place before You my whole life and hope, O loving Master; and I ask, pray, and entreat You: Make me worthy to partake in a mystical way and with a pure conscience of Your awesome and heavenly Mysteries: for forgiveness of sins, for the pardon of offenses, for communion of the Holy Spirit, for the inheritance of the kingdom of heaven, for confidence before You, and not for judgment or condemnation. I embrace You as You enter and abide in me, and I unite myself completely to You. Permeate my soul and body, and never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

### **At-Home Willow & Easter Basket Blessing**

In his [pastoral directive](#) for Holy Week and Easter, Bishop Bryan stresses that “though your blessing is not sacramental... God is calling laity to experience this, given the circumstances. Try to discover your dignity and worth when Christ, through you, blesses your family and items for your home. Share in Christ’s priesthood since you have been baptized in Christ.” With this in mind, there will not be any in-person blessings of Easter Baskets at our churches this year. Instead, you are encouraged to bless yours at home, by formulating your own prayer, or using the following:

[Blessing of Easter Food](#)

[What’s in an Easter Basket?](#)

If you have Holy Water at home that you brought from the church, feel free to use that to sprinkle on your branches and Easter foods. In a small but significant way, that blessed water is another sign of our spiritual Communion these days. Alternatively, you can prepare some ordinary water at home and pray a [Simple Blessing of Water](#). Above all, as Bishop Bryan also mentions: “Discover how Christ wants to use you in more at-home ways to bless; your belongings and gifts from God; your brother, your sister, your parents by your actions and words. When you forgive you bless! Through your love, kindness and compassion you bless (and not just with water). You are empowered to express your baptismal priesthood in Christ!”

**PLEASE PRAY FOR EACH OTHER!** Remember especially those who are sick, suffering or house-bound: Alex Skakun, Hailey Woytowich, Steph Cooley, Jules Chrusch, Rose Chrusch, Tina Wesolowski, Nikolas Stefanyshyn, Albert/Genevieve Zaiachkowski, Delvine Zapaniuk, Olga Kondra, Shelley Perepeluk, Bill Muzyka.

**Helping Those in Need** – Food Banks of Saskatchewan have launched a province-wide Crisis Response Fund. Donate at: <https://lnkd.in/gAPDyP8>.

Our friends at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish (426 Avenue J South) have seen an increase in the number of people accessing their food pantry, so they would be grateful for any contributions of food. Contact them directly at [ologsaskatoon@rcdos.ca](mailto:ologsaskatoon@rcdos.ca) or 306-653-4945 if you can help.

You might also consider donating to Development and Peace – Caritas Canada's Share Lent campaign online at <https://bit.ly/2WullYy> or by phone at 1 888 664- 3387. Each year, their Share Lent campaign raises funds to support millions of people in the Global South, whose needs will be even greater this year.

**Supporting your Church** - Our parish council is grateful to those of you who have continued to support Dormition Parish financially by leaving donations in the church mailbox, on the parish website, or through our pre-authorized debit (PAD) program. THANK YOU! Please continue to use these donation methods or sending your gifts by mail to the church (120 105<sup>th</sup> Street West). In an effort to simplify the registration process for PAD, especially in these days when the church is not open to the public, we've developed a [online application](#) which is both secure and convenient. You might also consider making a donation via e-transfer to [treasurerdormitionucc@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerdormitionucc@gmail.com).

The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon **Covenant of Care Abuse and Misconduct Protocol** is designed to ensure that all allegations of physical and sexual abuse and other misconduct are handled responsibly, transparently and with all due care and attention. If you have a concern please contact Fr. Andre, Parish Coordinator of Care **Jon Abrametz** at (306-652-8833 ext.1) or **Deb Larmour**, Eparchial Coordinator of Care [covenantofcare@skeparchy.org](mailto:covenantofcare@skeparchy.org) or 306-653-0138 ext. 228.

## **EASTER BLESSING**

"On this Easter morning, let us look again at the lives we have been so generously given and let us let fall away the useless baggage that we carry -- old pains, old habits, old ways of seeing and feeling -- and let us have the courage to begin again. Life is very short, and we are no sooner here than it is time to depart again, and we should use to the full the time that we still have.

We don't realize all the good we can do. A kind, encouraging word or helping hand can bring many a person through dark valleys in their lives. We weren't put here to make money or to acquire status or reputation. We were sent here to search for the light of Easter in our hearts, and when we find it we are meant to give it away generously. The dawn that is rising this Easter morning is a gift to our hearts and we are meant to celebrate it and to carry away from this holy, ancient place the gifts of healing and light and the courage of a new beginning."

John O'Donohue  
Dawn Mass Reflections at Corcomroe Abbey

**2020 PASTORAL LETTER  
OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF CANADA  
ON THE OCCASION  
OF THE FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**

To the Very Reverend Clergy, Monastics and Religious Sisters and Brothers, Seminarians and Laity of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord – *Christ is Risen! Христос Воскрес!*

How difficult it is during the darkness of the COVID 19 pandemic, with closed churches and empty streets, to respond with enthusiasm to this greeting of joy – *Indeed, He is Risen! Воістину Воскрес!* Rather, we might feel urged to chant the words from the psalm the Church sings on the Sundays preceding Great Lent: *“By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion. ... How could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil?” [Ps. 136:1, 4]*

This period of turmoil, however, is not new to the followers of Jesus Christ. Throughout its history the Church has known times of natural disasters, severe restrictions and persecutions. Many members of our Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church today still recall the years of underground existence during the Soviet period in Ukraine. Especially during the years from 1945 through to 1989 churches were locked and the faithful were forbidden to practice their faith and sing: *Christ is Risen!*

For many in Ukraine during those years the main source of spiritual life came from the Vatican Radio broadcasts where the Divine Liturgy was celebrated every Sunday and religious programs were transmitted daily from Rome. In homes throughout Ukraine a radio was placed on the kitchen table and the family gathered around to pray and sing quietly, united with those in the free world. Many of the clergy, religious sisters and seminarians living in Rome during those years took part in these broadcasts, doing what they could to uphold the faith of the people throughout Ukraine, including as well, those in far off Siberia.

One of the central prayers of the Resurrection Matins celebrated on Easter Sunday is entitled: *Plottiu* – literally, “In the flesh”. The solemn melody begins low and slowly rises. It accompanies the following words: *“You have fallen asleep in the flesh as a mortal man, O King and Lord, but on the third day You arose again.”* The melody continues to rise with the words: *“You have raised Adam from his corruption and made Death powerless.”* Then the melody reaches its culmination with high notes proclaiming: *“You are the Pasch of incorruption. You are the salvation of the world.”*

This troparion has been sung for centuries every year at Easter: during times of persecution, during times of natural disasters, and during times of peace and harmony. Our brothers and sisters in Ukraine sang it over and over again during the years of underground church life. And we too can sing this hymn during this time of pandemic, even when our spirits may be weak and fragile.

The hymn *Plottiu* speaks to us of the human nature of Jesus Christ, by which he was subject to death – his tragic death on the cross. He was buried and some mourned his passing. In solidarity with humanity Jesus took upon himself the human body to share the hardships and trials that we must endure, even to the point of death.

The narrative of Jesus would be a sad story indeed, if it were not for the power of the Father's love for him, raising Jesus from the depths of the kingdom of Death. This is the truth of the Resurrection. This is the true joy of Easter. This is what we are called upon to celebrate in whatever way we can during this time of darkness and gloom. COVID-19 is a material evil of this finite world. Its time will pass. It is no match to the power of the love of our eternal God, revealed in the Resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ!

Dear Beloved! Whether we pray in glorious churches or in our humble homes – **Christ is Risen!** Whether we hear beautiful choirs or a voice crying in the wilderness – **Christ is Risen!** Whether we partake of a sumptuous Easter basket overflowing with food, or a simple sandwich and a glass of water – **Christ is Risen!**

We share the Good News of spiritual hope and joy that the Resurrection of the Lord offers to all humanity: with the lonely and the shut-ins, with the discouraged and depressed, with those without employment and with those having inadequate housing. We share the Good News of spiritual hope and joy in the Resurrection especially with all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic: with those afflicted by the virus, with the health care workers who endanger their lives helping others, with those providing essential community services, with those who have passed on to eternal life and with all those who mourn their passing.

May you find hope and support in the Resurrection of the Lord, and the spiritual strength to proclaim: **Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen! Христос Воскрес! Воистину Воскрес!**

Sincerely Yours in the Risen Lord!

- + Lawrence Huculak, OSBM, Metropolitan Archbishop of Winnipeg
- + David Motiuk, Eparchial Bishop of Edmonton, Administrator of New Westminster
- + Bryan Bayda, CSsR, Eparchial Bishop of Saskatoon, Administrator of Toronto
- + Michael Wiwchar, CSsR, Bishop Emeritus of Saskatoon
- + Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM, Bishop Emeritus of New Westminster
- + Stephen Chmilar, Bishop Emeritus of Toronto