



CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY
FOR THE INCARCERATED
FROM THE ORDER OF MALTA

The Serving Brother

EASTER 2016

Thoughts from Most Reverend Patrick C. Pinder, Archbishop of Nassau

Easter Lives in Our Hearts

We arrive at Easter by way of a forty-day journey we call Lent. Easter is the center of our Church year.

The celebration of Easter brings us back to the foundation of our faith. It takes us back to how it all began. It is important for us to celebrate this Feast each year to remember what it is that we believe and why we believe it. At Easter we return to the very source of the strength and the hope that is within us.

At the Mass of Easter Sunday we hear the words from the Acts of Apostles where Peter reports how “Jesus went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him ... They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, yet God raised him on the third day.” (Acts 10:37ff)

That is a basic, fundamental expression of our Christian faith. It is the bedrock upon which we place all our hope. It is the foundation upon which we build all our values.

It is the cornerstone for all the meaning and purpose and motives for good in our lives. It is the source of the expectation we have for the fullness of life – of which only hints and shadows are ours in this mortal existence.



At Easter, we celebrate what Peter was speaking about when he says “God raised Him on the third day.” We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. We share in that resurrection by our very own baptism. Sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the way we understand our baptism.

As St Paul says: “Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We

CONTINUED INSIDE, SEE **EASTER LIVES**



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A Spiritual Message from Father George

We need to reclaim and celebrate “Easter”

I wish each of you a most blessed and joyful Easter! All our writers in this edition of TSB use the term “Easter.” Nowadays, many of our brothers and sisters in Christ are trying to replace the word Easter with “Resurrection Day.” While I think they are well meaning, I also think their sense of history and language is misguided. There is nothing wrong with the word Easter!

The idea of getting rid of the word Easter only came about in the last 100 years. Even the Protestant Reformer Luther and the Protestant translators of the Bible, Tyndale and Wycliffe had no problem using the word Easter. (The German word Luther used was “Oster.”)

The main argument seems to be that the word Easter is not in the Bible. That is true. But neither is the word “Christmas” and I don’t hear Christians arguing to do away with that word and just refer to Dec 25th as “Birth Day.” Imagine wishing someone a “Merry Birth Day!” We lose a lot of beauty and a sense of our connection to the past, and to Christians who came before us when we get rid of words without understanding their meanings.

The origins of the word Easter come from northern European languages. That’s about as much as we can say for sure. Scholars disagree as to the exact original meaning. It could have referred to a northern European pagan goddess “Eostre” – but it could just as easily been a word for spring festivals.

Either way it doesn’t matter because words and language change. Even if it did originally refer to pagan things, for the last 1200 years or so it has come to mean the celebration of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead.

Most of our words in English come from pre-Christian, pagan people. For example, the days of the week are all related to pagan gods, but if I say “I’ll see you on Saturday,” I am not paying honor to the Roman god “Saturn.” Saturday is not a pagan day because its name has pagan origins. It has nothing to do with the god Saturn, any more than Easter has anything to do with a pagan goddess named Eostre. Even most of our months are named after pagan Gods!

Similarly, the Church had no problem using pagan symbols to teach people about Christ. Of course there is nothing about Easter bunnies or Easter eggs in the Bible. These clearly had origins in pre-Christian celebrations.

Mass readings

WEEK	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
Feb29-Mar 6	2 Kgs 5:1-15ab Lk 4:24-30	Dn 3:25, 34-43 Mt 18:21-35	Dt 4:1, 5-9 Mt 5:17-19	Jer 7:23-28 Lk 11:14-23 St Katharine Drexel	Hos 14:2-10 Mk 12:28-34 St Casimir	Hos 6:1-6 Lk 18:9-14	Jos 5:9a, 10-12 2 Cor 5:17-21 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Mar 7-13	Is 65:17-21 Jn 4:43-54 Sts Perpetua & Felicity	Ez 47:1-9,12 Jn 5:1-16 St John of God	Is 49:8-15 Jn 5:17-30 St Frances of Rome	Ex 32:7-14 Jn 5:31-47	Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30	Jer 11:18-20 Jn 7:40-53	Is 43:16-21 Phil 3:8-14 Jn 8:1-11
Mar 14-20	Dn 13:41c-62 Jn 8:12-20	Nm 21:4-9 Jn 8:21-30	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 Jn 8:31-42	Gn 17:3-9 Jn 8:51-59 St Patrick	Jer 20:10-13 Jn 10:31-42 St Cyril of Jerusalem	2Sm 7:4-5a, 12:14a, 16 Rom 4:13, 16:18, 22 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a [1]	Lk 19:28-40 (37) Is 50:4-7 Phil 2:6-11 Lk 23:1-49 [2]
Mar 21-27	Is 42:1-7 Jn 12:1-11 Holy Week	Is 49:1-6 Jn 13:21-33, 36-38 Holy Week	Is 50:4-9a Mt 26:14-25 Holy Week	Ex 12:1-8, 11-14 1 Cor 11:23-26 Jn 13:1-15 Holy Thursday	Is 52:13-53:12 Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9 Jn 18:1-19:42 [3]	Holy Saturday/ Easter Vigil prayers below	Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Col 3:1-4 Jn 20:1-9 Easter Sunday
Mar 28-Apr 3	Acts 2:14, 22-33 Mt 28:8-15	Acts 2:36-41 Jn 20:11-18	Acts 3:1-10 Lk 24:13-35	Acts 3:11-26 Lk 24:35-48	Acts 4:1-12 Jn 21:1-14	Acts 4:13-21 Mk 16:9-15	Acts 5:12-16 [4] Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 Jn 20:19-31
Apr 4-10	Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38 [5]	Acts 4:32-37 Jn 3:7b-15 St Vincent Ferrer	Acts 5:17-26 Jn 3:16-21	Acts 5:27-33 Jn 3:31-36 St John Baptist de la Salle	Acts 5:34-42 Jn 6:1-15	Acts 6:1-7 Jn 6:16-21	Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41 Rv 5:11-14 Jn 21:1-19
Apr 11-17	Acts 6:8-15 Jn 6:22-29 St Stanislaus	Acts 7:51-8:1a Jn 6:30-35	Acts 8:1b-8 Jn 6:35-40 St Martin I	Acts 8:26-40 Jn 6:44-51	Acts 9:1-20 Jn 6:52-59	Acts 9:31-42/ Jn 6:60-69	Acts 13:14, 43-52 Rv 7:9, 14b-17 Jn 10:27-30
Apr 18-24	Acts 11:1-18 Jn 10:1-10	Acts 11:19-26 Jn 10:22-30	Acts 12:24-13:5a Jn 12:44-50	Acts 13:13-25 Jn 13:16-20 St Anselm	Acts 13:26-33 Jn 14:1-6	Acts 13:44-52 Jn 14:7-14 Sts George & Adalbert	Acts 14:21-27 Rv 21:1-5a Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35
Apr 25-May 1	1 Pt 5:5b-14 Mk 16:15-20 St Mark	Acts 14:19-28 Jn 14:27-31a	Acts 15:1-6 Jn 15:1-8	Acts 15:7-21 Jn 15:9-11 Sts Peter Chanel & Louis Grignon de Montfort	Acts 15:22-31 Jn 15:12-17 St Catherine of Siena	Acts 16:1-10 Jn 15:18-21 St Pius V	Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 Rv 21:10-14, 22-23 Jn 14:23-29
May 2-8	Acts 16:11-15 Jn 15:26-16:4a St Athanasius	1 Cor 15:1-8 Jn 14:6-14 Saints Philip & James	Acts 17:15, 17:22-18:1 Jn 16:12-15	Acts 1:1-11 Eph 1:17-23 Lk 24:46-53 [6]	Acts 18:9-18 Jn 16:20-23	Acts 18:23-28 Jn 16:23b-28	Acts 7:55-60 Rv 22:12-14, 16-17, 20 Jn 17:20-26
May 9-15	Acts 19:1-8 Jn 16:29-33	Acts 20:17-27 Jn 17:1-11a St Damien de Veuster	Acts 20:28-38 Jn 17:11b-19	Acts 22:30; 23:6-9 Jn 17:20-26 Sts Nereus, Achilleus & Pancras	Acts 25:13b-21 Jn 21:15-19 Our Lady of Fatima	Acts 1:15-17, 20-23 Jn 15:9-17 St Matthias	Acts 2:1-11 Rom 8:8-17 Jn 20:19-23 [7]
May 16-22	Jas 3:13-18 Mk 9:14-29	Jas 4:1-10 Mk 9:30-37	Jas 4:13-17 Mk 9:38-40 Saint John I	Jas 5:1-6 Mk 9:41-50	Jas 5:9-12 Mk 10:1-12 St Bernadine of Siena	Jas 5:13-20 Mk 10:13-16 St Christopher Magalanes & Companions	Prv 8:22-31 Rom 5:1-5 Jn 16:12-15 [8]
May 23-30	1 Pt 1:3-9 Mk 10:17-27	1 Pt 1:10-16 Mk 10:28-31	1 Pt 1:18-25 Mk 10:32-45 [9]	1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12 Mk 10:46-52 St Philip Neri	1 Pt 4:7-13 Mk 11:11-26 St Augustine of Canterbury	Jude 17, 20b-25 Mk 11:27-33 [9]	Gn 14:18-20 1 Cor 11:23-26 Lk 9:11b-17 [10]

Holy Saturday readings: Gn 1:1-2:2 Gn 22:1-18 Ex 14:15-15:1 Is 54:5-14 Is 55:1-11 Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4 Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28 Rom 6:3-11 Mt 28:1-10

Note: **Solemnities** in red, **Feast days** in gold and **Memorials** in green, in celebration of the saint/event shown. [1] **St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary** [2] **Palm Sunday** [3] **Good Friday** [4] **Divine Mercy Sunday** [5] **The Annunciation of the Lord** [6] **The Ascension of the Lord** [7] **Pentecost Sunday** [8] **Most Holy Trinity** [9] **Sts Bede the Venerable, Gregory VII & Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi** [10] **The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**

But the missionaries in Europe chose to use these familiar symbols to teach the people they encountered about the True God revealed to us through Jesus Christ. The bunnies and eggs symbolized new life. Because of the resurrection, we have new life in Christ. (See , John 11:25 and 2 Corinthians 5:17)

An example is the legend that St. Patrick used the native shamrock of Ireland to teach the people there about the

Trinity (also a word not in the Bible but essential to our Christian Faith!)

So rather than reduce a joyful holiday to “Resurrection Day,” let’s hold on to the beauty of our language and continue to celebrate Easter! ❄️

Father George T. Williams SJ, Editor of The Serving Brother, is Chaplain of San Quentin State Prison. Opened in July 1852, San Quentin is the oldest prison in California, and houses over 4,200 men, including more than 750 on death row.

were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in the newness of life.” (Romans 6:3-4)

Continuing that same thought, the reading which is taken from Colossians says “If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.” (Colossians 3:1)

Our Journey of Conversion

Let us remember that at the beginning of Lent, in our preparation for Easter we were invited to undertake a journey of conversion. The words of the Prophet Joel from Ash Wednesday were very striking and very instructive as well. The Prophet says to us:

“Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping and mourning. Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord, your God. For gracious is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness and relenting in punishment. Perhaps he will again relent and leave behind him a blessing.” (Joel 2:12-14a)

These words echo those of the prophet Samuel: “Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart.” (I Samuel 16:7)

The call to conversion at the beginning of Lent and the call to live in the newness of life at the start of the Easter season remind us who we are and what we are to be doing. Paul reminds us that we are to be dead to sin and alive for God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:11)

Our Sins Reach Beyond Ourselves

From time to time we all find ourselves on intimate terms with sin in one form or another. We need to remember that sin has personal consequences for us. More than that, living in a community as we all do, sin has social consequences as well. Our selfishness, our

dishonesty, our unfaithfulness and our prejudice all have consequences which reach beyond us. These consequences have effects within the community in which we live. Indeed, they impact the quality of our life together. When we steal, someone has to pay for it. If we are rude and disrespectful, someone is offended by it. Indeed, our sinful actions have effects beyond ourselves.

Awakening the Best Within Us

Likewise, the good we do has effects beyond our selves. An act of kindness, a word of encouragement or challenge or even rebuke when necessary may each have an effect beyond our expectations. The bad and the good in us affect those around us.

Our task is to affect those around us for the good always. In that way we build our community. In that way we make our community better for us all. The foundation for our values, our meanings, our hope, and our community building is our Easter faith.

Easter continues our call to conversion. It is our call to goodness. It is our call to awaken the most noble aspects of our nature. The Easter proclamation declares: “Jesus Christ our King is risen!” With him rose all our hope. With him rose our desire to carry on despite all the distractions and disappointments and doubt which may encircle us in the course of any given day.

The Easter Season lasts for fifty days, until the Feast of Pentecost. Easter is, above all else a joyful season. To grasp that is to grasp what the gospel refers to when it says that Christ our life, our light and our hope, rose from the dead. May the newness of life which Easter announces come to live in our hearts and from there influence our lives, our community and our world.

Happy Easter! ❄️

Patrick C. Pinder is the Archbishop of Nassau, The Bahamas. He was born, raised and educated in Nassau before obtaining college degrees in the United States and Belgium.



Doubting Thomas, by Caravaggio, Italian, 1603

A Shepherd's Message on Easter

by *Daniel Nicholas Cardinal DiNardo*

The Easter celebrations remind us of the beauty and truth of our call as Christians, the hope of our final goal to be with God forever, and the challenge of our mission to live and bear witness to the Gospel. No person in the New Testament meets the Risen Christ and is left unemployed! We all have received a message and a mission to make Christ known, to go and speak, to go and be a mission of the Risen Christ in the world. So it is true even today.

It is in the "hour" of Jesus' death and resurrection that the loving plan of God comes to its climax: the Father gives everything in giving His Son; and the Son, the Eternal Word, gives everything to the Father in the loving obedience of the cross. It is at the cross that whatever has been hidden is opened up.

At the cross, what Jesus says to the criminal crucified next to him He says to all human beings who have been hiding from the love of God: "Today, you will be with me in paradise."

At Jesus' death, blood and water flow from His wounded side, a symbol of the

presence and activity of the Holy Spirit who comes forth as a wellspring of grace! The entire Blessed Trinity is active beyond our understanding.

The incorruptible Risen Body of Jesus Christ is not something of the past. It is always present and the Church never ceases to celebrate this presence. This is the glory of Easter! We have been claimed by this same Jesus, and we have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit to constantly witness to Him.

We witness by participating in the Mass whenever we can, listening to the Word of God in the Bible, and receiving his Risen Body in Holy Communion. As we go forth from Mass we are meant to continue to witness and celebrate Christ's presence. In fact, it is in the world of our everyday lives that the promise of Easter most shines. Many scattered children need to be gathered to the Lord. We are the witnesses.

Happy Easter! ✠

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo is the Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, Texas. A Conventual Chaplain of the Order of Malta, Cardinal DiNardo's remarks are presented with the permission of the Texas Catholic Herald.

WE HAVE SEEN THE LORD, BECAUSE HE HAS RISEN! HE HAS TRULY RISEN!

by Archbishop J. Michael Miller

“I have seen the Lord” (Jn 20:18), exclaimed Mary Magdalene, expressing the joy of the Resurrection. This repentant sinner, the one to whom the Lord had showed His tender mercy, became “the apostle to the Apostles,” proclaiming the thrilling message to them: Jesus’ rising from the dead has defeated the power of sin and death.

We, too, today share the joy of Christ’s victory: “We have seen the Lord, because He has risen! He has truly risen!” And we, too, must proclaim to others that message of life and limitless mercy, of hope and undying love. Our joy of knowing that Jesus is alive cannot be contained. With our families and friends, with our neighbors and our communities, let us share this joy!

Each of us can relive the experience of Mary Magdalene when, in faith, we encounter Jesus as a living Person – alive and in our midst. This experience transforms us, filling us with a quiet joy, despite our suffering and difficulties. An encounter with Jesus, coming to know him, is always an event of mercy, for He frees us from the burden of sins and the fear of death.

When the women had first discovered the empty tomb, it left them confused and full of questions: “What happened? What is the meaning of all this?” (cf. Lk 24:4).

Doesn’t the same thing also happen to us when we encounter something completely new in our everyday life? We stop short. We don’t understand. We don’t know what to do. We want to hold on to our old security.

As Pope Francis has said, “Newness often makes us fearful, including the newness which God brings us, the newness which God asks of us. We are afraid of God’s surprises. But let us not be closed to the newness that God wants to bring into our lives! Let us not close our hearts, let us not lose confidence, let us never give up: there are no situations which God cannot change.”

Let the Risen Jesus enter your life. Welcome Him as a friend. Trust Him. If you have been keeping Him at a distance, Easter is the time to draw close to Him. He will receive you with open arms. If you have been indifferent, take a risk. The Lord will never disappoint you. If following Him seems difficult, be confident that He will give you the strength to live as His friend and disciple.

Bring this message to others: Jesus, the eternal Son of God, died on the Cross for our sins, but God the Father raised Him up bodily from death and made Him the Lord of life. In the Risen Jesus, love has triumphed over hatred, mercy over vengeance, goodness over evil, truth over falsehood, life over death.

I send each of you the assurance of my prayers: may the joy of Christ’s Resurrection which filled the soul of Mary, his Mother, ring out in your hearts and in your homes so that hope may be born anew! ❄️

J. Michael Miller, CSB, is the Archbishop of Vancouver, Canada. Born and raised in the capital city of Canada, Ottawa, he made his first profession of vows in 1966. The Archbishop is a Conventual Chaplain Ad Honorem of the Order of Malta and holds academic degrees from universities in Canada, the United States and Rome, Italy.

The Cross

Good Friday is the only day of the year when the Church does not celebrate Mass. Though there is no Mass, often the Stations of the Cross, the Veneration of the Cross or a commemoration of the Passion may be observed. If at all possible, please attend at least one of the services at your church.

Today's reading from Isaiah 52 is one of the most beautiful and emotional of the Church year. Listen to what Jesus did for us:

Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, while we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins; upon him was the chastisement that makes us

whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; but the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all.

Today we reflect upon the cross. Yes, we are a resurrection people. But, as the old saying goes, you can't get to the resurrection without going through the cross.

Father, we thank you for the sacrifice of Christ Jesus on the cross. Help us to never take that sacrifice for granted. We thank you for our healing by His stripes. Amen. ✠

Gus Lloyd is the host of "Seize the Day," a weekday morning program on the Catholic Channel of Sirius Satellite Radio (XM 129), which is sponsored by the Archdiocese of New York.

Give your brain a workout!

Sudoku Puzzle

	9				3			
		4	8		2	7		
7	2			4			6	
2				5	8	3		
	8						7	
		1	9	3				6
	6			8			3	7
		7	3		5	4		
			7				1	

Sudoku Directions – Fill each square with the numbers 1-9. No number can appear twice within the same row, the same column, or within the same frame of nine squares. **ANSWERS ON BACK PAGE**

Brain Teaser

Cryptogram: Can you uncode the saying below, by figuring out how the letters have been swapped? Hint: every K in the puzzle represents the letter A.

RNO RCBO HOKMBCO PV K HKF
 QM NPS NO RCOKRM MPHOPFO
 SNP DKF WP NQH KJMPYBROYI
 FP ZPPW.

- MKHBOY EPNFMFP

Patron's Pride!

Letters from our readers

Our Order has often been called the “Knights of St. John” after our patron saint, John the Baptist. In response to our request in the Advent 2015 edition, we received many letters with great ideas on how prisoners can have a positive impact upon the world around them!

We thank you for each letter received, and will share your thoughts with Fra’ Matthew, the leader of our Order. Also thank you to those who really thought about this question, but didn’t quite get a letter in the mail to us.

What follows are quotes of some fine responses that we received. We encourage each Serving Sister and Brother reading this – no matter what nation or part of the globe that you are in – to “walk the walk” every day, striving together with us to use your unique gifts to make the biggest impact in positively responding to the call of St. John to “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!”

“A prisoner who truly believes in God, goes to services, studies the Bible and leads a good life can be a role model for those who are still living a life that keeps them from being a Child of God. However, most people are ignorant of this thought and can’t see it. The more you become dependent, believe, and lead this life, you can help to spread His Word and love to those who need it.” **by R.Y.**

“We have no problem emulating rock stars or sports figures. No shame in that. But to say that ‘I want to be more like the saints or Jesus’ is different due to the urge to be accepted. Wanting to be hip, slick and cool has killed many wanting to fit in. That’s why we should study God’s word: It is our only hope, our road map, our answer. Jesus is the answer.” **by A.C.**

“Prayer and meditation work, building positive connections – which is where we must start. Next, building a support group with the people you work with, the people you go to church with, having a spiritual advisor to help you work through the necessary steps in A.A., N.A. or C.A. to help work out our problems, as well as going to meetings and building a strong fellowship of people you can talk to. With the Bible and Jesus Christ, there is help and a solution that will help us in our everyday lives. Just being involved with good people starts a good society and community, as you see how important being of service is to one another.” **by C.P.**

“Prisoners can make a huge impact on their community in a positive manner. Our Father offers us the gift of mercy at every moment of our lives, no matter what we have done before. It’s never too late to turn to Him. While in prison, we learn how to serve others, as well as put our own needs behind us. We can take this knowledge and experience out into society, by providing those skills to groups like Catholic Charities. We also learn management skills that can lead into small businesses, or the local community.” **by N.A.**

Puzzle solutions

- Samuel Johnson

“The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good.”

Answer to cryptic quote:

1	9	8	6	7	3	2	5	4
6	5	4	8	1	2	7	9	3
7	2	3	5	4	9	1	6	8
2	7	6	1	5	8	3	4	9
3	8	9	4	2	6	5	7	1
5	4	1	9	3	7	8	2	6
4	6	5	2	8	1	9	3	7
9	1	7	3	6	5	4	8	2
8	3	2	7	9	4	6	1	5

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