

A letter from Canon David Nason

Dear Friends,

I write to wish you all a very 'Happy Easter' or at least the happiest Easter that you can have in the present surreal circumstances, isolated and far from friends and family. But what a wonderful message the Easter story gives us in our present predicament; pain, suffering and even death followed by resurrection and new life.

You just imagine those disciples on that fateful Friday when their charismatic leader had been put to death in the most humiliating and painful way possible, nailed to a cross. They indeed were isolated and worried. "Are we next?" they must have asked themselves. So they went and hid themselves in secret and then on the evening of the third day Jesus Christ himself appeared amongst them. He had also walked with Cleophas and his companion that afternoon as they had returned to Emmaus. They recognised him in the breaking of bread, something that we cannot do at the moment. But imagine their joy and elation on that day, everything that Jesus said had come true that on the third day he would rise again and indeed he had.

I can't see that we will be through this current situation in three days but be assured there is light at the end of the tunnel and despite how long it will take there will be new life. I am sure for many of us and for many others there will not only be new life but also a new outlook on life. Perhaps we won't take the simple everyday things for granted; perhaps we will be more appreciative and caring in our approach to others. Perhaps we will be more thankful for all the good things in our lives.

For the moment however, there will be much suffering and pain and even grief before that 'end of tunnel' light appears bright and shining. "We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song", wrote St Augustine over 1,800 years ago. It was true then and it is true today. We are an Easter people because we have trust and faith in God that whatever we have to face in the world he will be true to us and see us through. Christ is risen – He is risen indeed, Alleluia

Keep safe and stay well

Fr. David