



ARCHDIOCESE *of* NEWARK

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark **Easter 2020 Video Message**

This Sunday we celebrate the great feast of Easter and we begin the season of joy.

And yet, our long Lent continues. We are still deprived of so many things that we have come to depend on, including the opportunity to join with our brothers and sisters for Easter Mass, large family gatherings, Easter parades, and the sports and entertainment festivities that are so popular this time of year.

This year—more than any in recent memory—we are reminded that the Lord’s resurrection did not totally eliminate the consequences of sin and death. Instead, our Lord’s rising from the dead has transformed life as we know it—giving it new meaning and a future full of hope. Although we are still battling a worldwide crisis that threatens our health and well-being, which physically distances us from one another and effectively has turned our lives upside down, we are people who can rejoice!

This Easter our joy is real, but it has an aspect of anticipation rather than immediate fulfillment. Christ has conquered sin and death, but their effects remain. Wars, famines and plagues still threaten us despite the fact that we have been redeemed—once and for all—by the self-sacrificing love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Easter celebrates the great mystery that, while natural disasters, pandemics, and hardships of every kind still remain, they have been transformed by the grace of God and can no longer condemn us to lives of misery and doom. We rejoice at Easter time—whatever our present circumstances —because the Lord is risen and remains close to us now and always.

Even in these troubled times, Easter joy should give us the confidence we need to overcome our anxious fears. Fundamentally, things are not awful because God has reached out to us and loved us.

We are not doomed to disaster. Christ died for us and set us free. We are not alone. Although “social distancing” is still in effect, we remain the gathering of God’s people, the Church, united in Christ. We need not be afraid. He is with us always.

The joy of Easter coincides with the coming of spring and the emergence of new life. This year, more than most, we have suffered through a painful winter, and we are more than ready for a new beginning.

Christ our Redeemer is the source of all new life. May this season of grace bring us lasting joy. May we share this joy generously with others during this Easter time and beyond!

Happy Easter! Felices Pascuas! Wesołych Świąt Wielkanocnych! Maligayang Pasko ng Pagkabuhay! Buona Pasqua! Bon Fet Pak! 행복한 부활절! Haengbokhan buhwaljeol!

