

Dear Brothers and Sisters



It is not enough to say: Christ is Risen!
It is not enough to say: Christ is Risen, Alleluia!
It is not enough to say: Christ is Truly Risen, Alleluia! Alleluia!
The Easter Church proclaims something more wonderful by far:

**CHRIST IS RISEN, ALLELUIA! TRULY RISEN, ALLELUIA,
RISEN FOR US!**

Yes, He is Risen, FOR US! For you! For me! This is the faith of the Church, and the cause of our joy. This is why the Easter Alleluias echo all through the world. That He is risen, and risen for us!

The Easter Liturgy regales us with a host of amazing images to describe the resurrection of Christ

BURSTING HIS THREE-DAY PRISON + VANQUISHING SATAN AND THE GRAVE + CONQUERING THE SHAMEFUL TREE + TRIUMPHING FROM EAST TO WEST + CROSSING O'ER THE RIVER + HARROWING HELL

And many others. But unless we personally share in this victory of Christ, unless our lives connect with his Risen life, all these powerful images will remain only images. And all images fade.

That is why the Risen Lord comes during these "FIFTY DAYS", during this "WEEK OF WEEKS", searching for each one of us, as He searched and appeared to his apostles in the first days of his rising.

And He says to us what He said to them: PEACE BE WITH YOU! DO NOT BE AFRAID! COURAGE!

The voice of the Risen Christ is calling all those of us who are buried under past mistakes, under broken relationships; those who feel shrouded by shame or remorse, by guilt or hate;

The Risen Christ is searching for those trapped in their sins or being destroyed by their addictions; those who feel their situation in life is hopeless; that there is no way forward; no solution.

He wants to touch all those who need to be raised from the death of depression or loneliness; those who want to pass from slavery to freedom; from darkness to light; from sin to grace.

This is the faith of the Church. Easter faith: Passover faith: that the power which raised Christ from the dead, can raise us too. His rising is our rising. His new life is our new life.

I want to wish you all a very Happy Easter! Again, I want to thank you for your greetings.

I want to assure all those who are reading this in their sick-bed, at home or in hospital, all those who are house-bound for whatever reason, that you are not forgotten.

I hope that the Easter Alleluias from our parish will reach you wherever you are, and that together we will experience the peace of the Risen Lord, because

WE ARE EASTER PEOPLE AND ALLELUIA IS OUR SONG!

Fr. Sean