

# Easter Greetings!!!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

*Save us, Savior of the world,  
For by your Cross and Resurrection  
You have set us free.*

At the Easter Vigil, the Preparation of the Candle, the priest who cuts a cross into the candle with a stylus. Then he makes the Greek letter Alpha above the cross, the letter Omega below, and the four numerals of the current year between the arms of the cross, saying meanwhile: **Christ yesterday and today; the Beginning and the End; the Alpha; and the Omega; All the time belongs to him; and all the ages; To him be glory and power; through every age and forever. Amen.**

Jesus' Resurrection opens up the new horizon in our lives, there is light and there is hope beyond the darkness. This is something important, we see Jesus's life through his Resurrection – victory over sin and death. Easter is something that we search for the Risen Lord – Where is he? Where is he gone? Where can we find him?...

The Gospel account, according to John 20: 1-9 - "Remove the stone from the Tomb, in order to see the burial cloths and cloth that covered the Head."

- 1) The first thing that happened in the context of the Resurrection of Jesus is that the removal of stone from the tomb. That became one of the important things to be noted.
- 2) Secondly, seeing of the burial cloths and the cloth which covered the Head of the Savior. This also becomes the important sign in the context of believing the Resurrection.
- 3) Removal of the stone is very important from the tomb of our lives.
  - First of all, our body is like a tomb in which the Spirit rests for few days.
  - This soul is nothing but the Divine Presence in our lives.

This divine presence is covered by various types of stones in our lives. We need to remove those stones in order to witness the presence of Risen Christ in our lives. After 40 Days of Lent, we are now ready to remove the stones of hatred, pride, greed, jealousy, anger, revenge, superiority, bodily passions, cheating, gossip, selfishness, self-glory. When we are able to remove these stones, we are sure to witness the presence of Risen Christ within ourselves.

Today, we are unable to see the Risen Christ in the Churches, Shrines and Holy Places due to COVID19. In this context it is an apt occasion to see the Risen Christ, first within ourselves and then with our family members. Removal of stone becomes very important task in this venture.

4) We need to play the role of Mary Magdalene in the search. She with courage went near the Tomb. She was blessed to see that the stone was removed from the Tomb.

Easter is an occasion to see our own lives and trying to remove the various stones which come in the context of witnessing the Risen.

5) The burial cloths and the cloths which covered the head are nothing but the good things which we possess in our lives. Our goodness, greatness, generosity, humility, love, selflessness, service, reaching out the others and all the good values which make our lives “Holy” like the white cloths.

Let's try to feel the experience of the tomb which is open to see the Risen Christ in our own lives.

Risen Lord bless you and your lovely Families! You are in my thoughts and prayers!

Wish you a Blessed Easter!

Fr. Jerome D'Souza  
Parochial Administrator  
Ashland Cluster