

April 2014

Dear Friends,

We're missing a trick with Easter. Here we have a major festival and we are not exploiting it. We build so much around Christmas – parties and so much fun and happiness. When it comes to Easter we do...Easter eggs – that's all. Why? It seems that the commercial world only knows how to exploit the *build up* to events. Much of the Christmas fun, for example, is in the days leading up to it. We can't do that with Easter. The build up to Easter is too serious and sombre. If nothing else we have Good Friday and the Cross preventing us from getting too festive. For some reason it seems that we are incapable of celebrating festivals after the Day. We are eager to move on to the next thing and therefore Easter loses out. And yet there is so much to enjoy – so much to celebrate. The themes of new life, victory over death, the triumph of love, forgiveness and new beginnings...surely there are no better reasons for throwing a party! The Church does its best to celebrate Easter for forty days (just like Christmas). Join in, unless you are too impatient to move on to the next thing.

Finally, each year people wonder why the date of Easter moves about. The reason for this is that Easter is governed by the cycle of the moon – it is the Sunday after the Jewish Passover full moon. Many centuries ago some people tried to standardise the date of Easter – they were branded as heretics and thrown out of the Church! There is so much history and meaning behind our special days. Mark them, enjoy them, celebrate them, and make the most of them.

Yours, in Christ,

John Ganjavi