

ENCOURAGEMENT ENCOURAGEMENT

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“Infinity”



THE HOST APOSTOLATE
WWW.THEHOSTAPOSTOLATE.ORG
14, GOATBECK TERRACE,
LANGLEY MOOR,
COUNTY DURHAM DH7 8JJ
thehostapostolate@gmail.com

The joy filled season of Easter is upon us once more. As we end Lent in Holy week with the death of Jesus on the Cross we are once again reminded that the story of Jesus' life does not end with the cross and shame but with victory. What is more it ends with a victorious combating of death and life that goes on for Him and for all of us. The death and rising of Jesus is central to our understanding of what was achieved on the Cross for all of us and the consequences that this leaves for us. It is not easy to grasp that death was not the end and Resurrection challenges us to deepen our understanding. It is not that Jesus himself did not give us examples of this before His own death in the raising of Jairus' daughter or the rising of Lazarus. He also mentioned it to the apostles many times, though they did not always grasp even a little of what He was saying.

Even after the Transfiguration they had not really understood what was about to happen...

We too struggle with what Resurrection means and that we too are destined for life eternal and that death does not bring about an annihilation but a new life.

Linked with this of course is the understanding, or lack of it, of 'infinity'. It is very difficult for us to grasp that there is a constant revitalising that goes on not only in nature, but that we are part of dying in this present life but that we are destined to be forever with an infinite God.

It struck me when considering the vastness of the Universe that we know only a fraction of what it contains and that new stars, planets and galaxies are forever being found. There are about three trillion still to be discovered. If this is the case, then how great must be the creator of such. However, we see creation and the making of it we simply cannot grasp its vastness. God is infinitely greater than any of it.

This is incredibly difficult for our small minds to gather and understand. The vastness of God therefore must be beyond our understanding. This can be quite a frightening thought and therefore He is ungraspable and mysterious. This can make Him a distant figure more to be feared than loved. More to be ignored than sought. The word *infinite* itself, never ending, without any limit or end, can sometimes seem too awesome for us.

Is it not amazing therefore that 'This Infinite God' is so approachable. We call Him Father in order to make this process easier for us. He does not allow His infinity to deter us from approaching Him. He makes himself known to us through Scripture and many events in the Old and New Testament. He leads us gently to understand that we are guided and led to a future that indeed has no end and that unites us with Him forever. How gently He guides us understanding that we can only go a step at a time and that hundreds of years is less than a grain of sand and so thousands of years is nothing to Him, but He never abandons us but leads us into greater truths.

I remember a little girl saying in response to a question 'how big is God', not really expecting an answer which she, as catechist, was going to give, putting up her hand and making a huge circle with her little arms and without any hesitation saying 'Bigger than the Sun bigger than everything bigger than all of us. Pretty good for an eight year old!!!

When another child said that it was 'scary' she shrugged her shoulder and replied, 'I like the Sun' Out of the mouths of Babies?

I often think that we are hampered by our small mindedness, and our perception of God is indeed too small... We would prefer to have him thus, with our

We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song! — St. John Paul II

small minds, His infinity frightens us too much. How different though, is that Infinite God toward us. He holds us in the palm of His hand. He misses nothing and loves us infinitely. Everything is known to Him about us, being of great value to Him.

He so loved us that he sent His son Jesus to bring us an understanding of who He really is. Suddenly we had an image, a man, a human being who was not only sent by God to help us bridge the gap of understanding but also to enable us to make a personal relationship with Him. His Son was the epitome of a loving God. This God who heals and loves. This God walks in this world of ours and sees the things we see. He gave us a knowledge of himself. Yet if we had any doubt, as many did, that He was God, He gave us teaching that He and His Father were one and that if we see Him we see the Father also. 'The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me.' (John 12: 45)

Furthermore, He not only sent His Son but allowed Him to die and the Son obeyed in the mutual love they had for each other. In that dying He not only redeemed us but pointed to an afterlife that brings us to The Father for eternity. How easily we say the word of many prayers ending 'forever and ever' without thinking of what we are actually saying. We say 'For thine is the Kingdom the Power and glory for ever and ever' ...but do we mean it?

How often do we reflect on the fact that we are given help to understand the power of God's love for us. Through the Gospel we have this 'God-Man' Jesus showing us miracles of healing of mind and body and of compassion. As well as this we have feast days in our calendar that reveal this in a different way throughout history. Just after Easter we have the feast of Divine Mercy, not of a fearful God but one that showers mercy upon us and forgiveness. The infinite God cares infinitely and that we too can ask for that mercy.



The Resurrection of Jesus is clear evidence of the infinity of God's love and power. His attributes cannot be limited to our human thinking. Jesus trusted His Father and cooperates with Him. He was not either afraid of Him or limited by Him. His Resurrection should give us hope and resurrection and life after death should be a constant thanksgiving prayer to God who made us and cherishes us. He will never let us down. He is infinite. *Halina Holman*©

Pope Leo XIV

"Even our time, marked by so many crosses, invokes the dawn of Paschal hope.

Christ's Resurrection as not an idea, not a theory, but the event that is the foundation of faith.

Truly believing in the Resurrection in our daily life means revolutionizing how we live. This transformation can then help change the world with the gentle and courageous power of Christian hope. We can be His witnesses even where human history does not see light on the horizon. Paschal hope does not disappoint." **Rome 2025.**

Easter

Behind the stone

of timeless wait

He rose alone

despite its weight

and strode from darkness

into light;

Eternal Day

dispelling night.

Joe Tessitore

'Happy Easter to all and many blessings.'

Feast Days in April

2nd Holy Thursday and the Lord's Supper

3rd Good Friday

4th Holy Saturday; Easter Vigil

5th Easter Sunday

12th Second Sunday of Easter. Feast of Divine Mercy

13th St. Pope Martin I

16th St. Bernadette

19th Third Sunday of Easter

23rd St. George, Patron of England

25th St. Mark, Evangelist

26th Fourth Sunday of Easter

29th St. Catherine of Siena

30th St. Pope Pius V

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