



DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG  
Office of the Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Jesus Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Easter is a defining moment because the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ bestows upon us the grace that transforms our lives. The gift of eternal life, the gift of forgiveness, and the gift of hope are all made possible by the Resurrection. Jesus Christ, both human and divine, perfectly fulfilled the will of His Father out of love for you and for me. What happened to Jesus Christ on the cross and in the tomb two thousand years ago matters to each one of us today and always.

The journey from darkness to light is one that we all experience, not just once, but at various times in life. Whatever is weighing you down at the present time – fear, anxiety, depression, or any other burden, is confronted by the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. God restores and makes all things new through Jesus Christ who is the source of our hope and joy. This is our faith, the message we proclaim through our daily witness of compassion and love.

We are all members of God's family. We are called at Easter, and at every single Mass, to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and to give thanks for what He has done for us. Let us respond to this invitation with joy in our hearts and hope for the future. May you have a blessed Easter!

Sincerely Yours in Christ

Most Reverend Gregory Parkes  
Bishop of St. Petersburg