



APRIL 4, 2021 | EASTER SUNDAY—THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

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Tazewell, VA 24651

ST. ELIZABETH'S
160 Merrick Lane
Pocahontas, VA 24635

ST. MARY'S
1122 Farmer Street
Richlands, VA 24641

ST. JOSEPH'S
1007 Independence Rd.
Grundy, VA 24614

The True Meaning and Significance of the Resurrection

RISING FROM death to life is not a very common phenomenon. However apart from the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ we have instances of people coming back to life after death:

1. In 1 Kings (17:17-24) Elijah the prophet prayed and the only son of the widow of Zarephat rose from the dead.
2. In 2nd Kings (4:20-37) Elisha raised the son of the Shunamite woman to life after his very brief illness and death.
3. In 2nd Kings (13:21) A man was raised to life by God's Spirit. People were about to bury the man in question, but when they saw a band of raiders coming, they simply threw the dead man's body into Elisha's tomb and ran away. However, when the corpse touched Elisha's bones the man came back to life.

4. In Luke (7:11-16), our Lord Jesus Christ raised the only son of the widow of Nain to life while they were on their way to bury him.
5. In Mark (5:35-43), our Lord Jesus Christ raised Jairus' daughter to life after she was confirmed dead.
6. In John (11:1-44) Jesus Christ our Lord raised Lazarus to life after being in the tomb for four days.
7. In Matthew (27:51-53) God made people who were dead to come back to life as Jesus Christ rose and there was an earthquake.
8. In Acts (9:36-41) Peter raised to life a seamstress and charitable woman known as Dorcas.
9. In Acts (20:7-12) Paul raised to life a young boy called Eutychus after he fell from a window and was found dead.

There are specific differences between these people and our Lord Jesus Christ. These people were brought back to life by the power of God coming from outside them. In the case of our Lord Jesus Christ he rose by his own power. Furthermore, all these people mentioned died again after being raised to life but in the case of our Lord Jesus Christ, He rose never to die again.

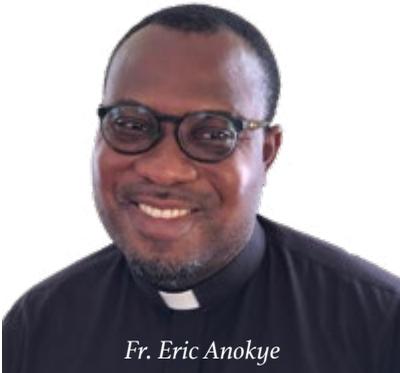
At the instance of the demise of the individuals mentioned above,

their family and friends cried and mourned and when suddenly they came back to life, those who were crying and mourning began immediately to rejoice and celebrate. Hence the rising from dead to life turns sorrow into joy, sadness into jubilation.

This could be linked to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. On Friday we were thrown into so much sorrow. Our Lord Jesus Christ was condemned to die. He was bruised, flogged, insulted, abandoned, mutilated, and finally killed. It was all gloomy and confusion was rife. The apostles were devastated. The best among them goofed. Peter, who was given an enviable position as the key bearer, denied the Lord even before a little maid who could qualify as his daughter. Judas, who was overseeing the treasure of the community, sold the master for thirty pieces of silver (about \$155). And of course the others took to their heels when the situation became unbearable.

All these and more became past tales with the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on this day. Indeed we have reason to rejoice because as St. Paul would say, death is destroyed and victory is complete (1 Cor. 15:54). The resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ also marks victory over the plans of the devil.

From the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ the devil had been looking for ways of stopping the salvific work of



Fr. Eric Anokye

the redeemer through different persons and situations, though without success until the appointed time when our Lord willingly took up His passion and death on the cross. So when we hear about Herod plotting to kill the infant, the machinations of the Scribes, Sadducees, Pilate, the Chief Priests, Pharisees, the townspeople of Nazareth and their like, we should actually see these as orchestrations of the devil to frustrate the work of our redemption.

At the appointed time, the divinely instituted moment, the soldiers strategized to beat Jesus back into the grave should he attempt to rise. However, there was an earthquake (Matt.28:1) and an angel came and rolled away the stone that was covering the tomb. The soldiers were so terrified that they became like dead men and at that instant our Lord rose majestically and triumphantly. The soldiers woke up only when it was too late and they could only go to report themselves as sleeping when the disciples took the body of the Lord away; an incredible tale that is unbecoming of Roman soldiers.

The testimony of the women who went to the tomb early and met an empty tomb was ascertained by Peter and John who went to confirm the empty tomb. It is also our faith that our Lord has risen and that also marks our own resurrection. We are a resurrection people! There is no way our Lord could rise and we remain unaffected and unchanged

by the power of his resurrection. To this end St. Paul would admonish us that if we believe that we have been raised with Christ, we should seek for things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of the father (Col.3:1f).

The resurrection of Jesus is productive of a lasting identity for us. There is need for every aspect of our lives to be marked with the character of the resurrection. The Pope emeritus Benedict XVI in his book "Jesus of Nazareth" (Pt. II) indicated that the Christian faith stands or falls with the truth of the testimony that Christ is risen from the dead.

If we believe that our Lord Jesus Christ has risen from the dead, then our lives should productively reflect the resurrection. There is need for us to rise from disobedience to obedience, from sin to righteous living, from darkness to light, from enmity to friendship. After the resurrection to life there will be no need of going back to the grave of sin and death!

We are now a resurrection people, we have risen above matter and misery. The tomb is empty and this directly means that our lives should also be emptied of all those things that create a barrier between us and God. As the angel of God was seen by the tomb reflecting the presence of God we should also allow the resurrection of our Lord to bring about God's presence in our lives. And we know that if God is with us nobody can be against us. (Romans 8:31).

PASTOR

Fr. Eric Anokye
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OFFICE MANAGER/ BOOKKEEPER

Lydia St. Peter

OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Fri 9:30AM – 2:30PM

Please call the parish office to make arrangements for the **Sacraments of Baptism, Anointing of the Sick or Holy Matrimony** as well as funerals. **Reconciliation** is available from 30 minutes before a scheduled Mass.

MASS TIMES

SATURDAY

4PM – St. Joseph's

6PM – St. Mary's

SUNDAY

9AM – St. Elizabeth's

11:30AM – St. Theresa's

MON | WED | FRI

10AM – St. Theresa's

Cover image:

Irma Martin, *The Three Women on the Tomb of Christ*, 1843

The Power of Beauty and the Christian Story

DEACON LAWRENCE KLIMECKI



Friedrich Kreisler, public domain

Few people will remember the name Friedrich “Fritz” Kreisler. But in the first half of the twentieth century he was one of the finest concert violinists and composers in the world. He earned a fortune through his concerts and his compositions but he gave most of his money away .

One day, during one of his tours, he came across a beautiful antique violin. But due to his generous nature and charitable heart, he did not have enough money to buy it.

Still, he promised himself that he would return for it. When he had earned enough money to meet the asking price he returned to the dealer only to find the beautiful instrument had been sold to a collector. Obtaining the name of the buyer, Kreisler made his way to the collec-

tor’s home hoping to buy the violin from him. But the new owner would not sell.

“Do you play?” asked Kreisler.

“No,” said the collector, “but I am a great lover of beautiful things and the violin has become one of my prized possessions.”

Disappointed Kreisler prepared to leave but was struck by a sudden thought. “Would you allow me to play it? May we hear its music once more before it is consigned to silence?”

Permission was given and the master began to play. He filled the room with music of such beauty that the heart of the collector was moved to tears. When the virtuoso finished the collector said to him.

“Mr. Kreisler, I have no right to keep such beauty to myself. It is yours. Take it out into the world and let people hear its music.”

Some of the finest violins ever made, were made hundreds of years ago. When played by a master the music they produce is so beautiful it can bring tears to our eyes. But it is a beauty that is meant to be shared, not locked away. Indeed if these instruments are not played occasionally they begin to deteriorate and soon lose the ability produce any music at all.

Christians carry with them the story of the salvation of every soul through the mercy of God, who is perfect Beauty. But how often do we keep that beauty to ourselves, afraid to impose our beliefs on others?

But is it an imposition to share Beauty with a world drowning in ugliness? The world is in desperate need of the power of Beauty.

Beauty is one of the ways in which we can come to know more about God. In translating the Book of Genesis from Hebrew to Latin to English, we lose some of the richness and subtleties of the original story. We read that “God saw all the things that he had made, and they were very good.” Genesis 1:31

In English, the word “good” is translated from the Latin word “bona.” The word “bona” is the translation Saint Jerome gives to the Hebrew word “towb.” But “towb” carries with it a much richer meaning than simply “good.” It is translated elsewhere in scripture as better, merry, fair, prosperity, precious, favor, wealth, and beautiful, to name just a few.

And so we can say that God saw all that He had made and it was beautiful.

We respond to Beauty. It is part of us as it is a part of all of creation. We respond to the beauty of a sunset, a night sky full of stars, or ocean waves crashing on the shore. These visions of beauty evoke in us a sense of longing. We long to return to the home for which we were made, where we can once again walk in the garden with our Creator who is all Beauty.

Beauty is intrinsic to our very existence. Beauty draws us beyond the mere surface aesthetics of a thing, to contemplate the source that lies behind.

The story of the salvation of mankind is a beautiful tale of love and compassion, mercy and sacrifice. It is a story that resonates within us so deeply that we revel in telling and retelling the story in countless ways. It is a story that frees us from dread and hopelessness, gives us hope and encouragement, and allows us to contemplate the divine source of all grace.

It is a story that has the power to change the world.

The grace we receive from the Easter event of the resurrection allows us to walk free without fear. We walk away from the tomb of sin that encloses each of us, free from the fear of death. That tomb is a reality of the past. As disciples of Jesus we have been given the means to roll back the stones that seal us in the tomb.

As Christians, as an Easter people, we are called to be a light to the world, the liberating voice of Christ. We reach out to our brothers and sisters, by sharing with them the beauty of the Christian story, to help free them from their tombs of darkness and ignorance.

Alleluia, all hail to Him Who Is. All praise and honor and glory to the Lamb who was slain. He is risen. He lives. And we are born into a new world. The apostles bear witness to a new reality, we shall not die, we shall live.

Glory to God in the highest.

Christus resurrexit!

“**Christians
carry with them
the story of the
salvation of every
soul through the
mercy of God, who
is perfect Beauty.**”



mass intentions

Date Intention

4/3 SATURDAY

4PM St. Joseph parishioners

6PM St. Mary parishioners

8PM Andrew Richardson & Family

4/4 SUNDAY

9AM Tony Lambert †

11:30AM Olivia Tester †

council members

PARISH COUNCIL:

Tonya Hylton, Frannie Minton, Ralph Shawver, Cindy Deskins, Barbara Jones, Donna Lambert

FINANCE COUNCIL:

Kathy & Bob Buchanan, Randy Bolling, Doug Vance, Anne Danko, Jim Talbert, Jackie Shawver, Janet McDonagh

please pray for

Louise Serreno*

Margie Stutso *

Margaret Shawver

Billy Akers

Scotty McBride

Gerry Hankins

Clarence Moore

Lexi Cox

Sarah Wall

Paris Whisher

Tammy Bennett

Margaret Wasilewski

Nic Ulate

Elizabeth Gregory

Frannie Minton

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Christian Lambert

Shane Neal

Tiffany Hladek

Tom & Sandra Bost

Archbishop John Kwofie

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Stacy Hall

Pete Belcher

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Bryan Gunter

Michael Beavers

Rick Hall

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Ralph Heldreth

Elizabeth Managan

Chris Jessie

Leo Brown

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Carolina Ferrare

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Rayburn Minton

Jeanne Hash

Philip & Pat Imel

Lara Marshall

Virginia Shumate

Jim Shumate

Doug Vance

Andrew Satmary

Frank Mauceri

Lori Hale

Dee Gentile

Glenn Harrison

Ray Ann Betzares

stewardship of treasure

Donations Received as of March 28 (Week 39)		
CHURCH	ATTENDANCE	RECEIVED
St. Joseph's	13	\$242
St. Elizabeth's	21	\$460
St. Mary's	13	\$115
St. Theresa's	26	\$1,531
Total Offertory	73	\$2,348
Outside Donations		\$500
Year to Date Received		\$92,334
Goal		\$86,250
Ahead/Behind Goal		+\$6,084

OUTSIDE DONATIONS—THANK YOU!

Midlotian, VA donor: \$500

ST. MARY'S BACKPACK PROGRAM

Clinch Valley Medical Center: \$128

HOLY FAMILY NEWS

Mass continues to be livestreamed Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10AM from St. Theresa's and the church will be open for anyone who wishes to attend in person. The 11:30AM Sunday Mass at St. Theresa's will also continue to be livestreamed for those who are not able to join us.

Have you checked out Fr. Eric's "**Cast into the Deep**" column on our Facebook page? Fr. Eric carefully crafts a reflection every day on the readings. Use it daily and grow your faith!

facebook.com/holyfamilyswva

THERE WILL BE NO DAILY MASS OR SCRIPTURE STUDY NEXT WEEK!

Congratulations! **ANDREW RICHARDSON**

Andrew entered into full communion with the Catholic Church and made his profession of faith on Wednesday, March 31. He received his first Holy Communion at Easter Vigil.

We joyfully welcome Andrew, his wife Charlie, and his children Jacob, Caleb and Sarah into the the family of Holy Family Parish!

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

What would have happened if Mary Magdalene (and, depending on which Gospel account you read, the other women) hadn't come to the tomb on that first Easter Sunday morning? It's crazy to think, but it seems likely that humanity might've missed out on the Good News of Christ's resurrection and His victory over death. After all, the apostles, those closest to Jesus, those who'd heard him repeatedly speak of His death and resurrection during his ministry, were in hiding—either because they didn't believe in Jesus's promise, or because their fear of punishment by the authorities deterred them from following up on it.

Instead, God drew Mary Magdalene to the tomb through her desire to be with Christ—even in His death. This underscores an important point: God draws us to Himself through our desires! Our hearts are made for God, and prayerfully reflecting upon where our deepest desires point is one of the best ways of discerning God's will for us.

Our parish has discerned a desire to strengthen our community through the Annual Diocesan Appeal. As we enter into the Easter season, confident that God draws us to Himself through our daily desires, let's discern how we can each generously support this important cause.

birthdays & anniversaries:

APRIL

BIRTHDAYS—6: Lanh Pham

ANNIVERSARIES—4: Alvin & Cynthia Angcanan

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