



St John's Cathedral 聖公會聖約翰座堂

Anglican Diocese of Hong Kong Island
Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

Message of Hope: What does Easter mean to you?

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Happy Easter to all of you! May the peace and love of the risen Christ be with you on this Easter Week!

What does Easter mean to you?

A week ago when I woke up, I looked out the window and I couldn't see very far as there was heavy fog covering part of Hong Kong. It reminded me a story I heard many years ago about the battle of Waterloo on 18th June 1815, between Wellington and Napoleon. In those days people used waving flags to pass on messages. One of those signal stations was on top of Winchester Cathedral.

It was late afternoon and people have been waiting for the first news of the world. A news came and it said "WELLINGTON---DEFEATED". Then the fog came in. People couldn't tell whether there was anything after that message but the news of the defeat spread immediately. They have lost the war. A great despair came upon the people. Then suddenly, the fog was lifted and there was more after the message. The message actually said "Wellington defeated the enemy!!" The whole country erupted into great joy.

In the past few months, we have been going through a very difficult time with the spread of the Coronavirus. With more than 1.5 million people now worldwide have been afflicted and close to 80,000 people have died. Many people died without their families being with them because of the lockdown.

Here in Hong Kong, our lives have been greatly disrupted. Schools have been suspended; workers have been working from homes, our church services have been cancelled and people have been staying away from crowded places. Many restaurants, businesses and shops are closing, some temporarily and some for good. Many people have lost their income. Many people have lost their saving. Many people do not have a job waiting for them even after all this is over. It looks like the world has been defeated. Our sense of security has been crushed. We ask, "when will this end?"

The situation with the Coronavirus is almost like a Good Friday experience. Jesus, the son of God was crucified on the cross. He died and was buried. But that was not the end of the story. On the third day, Jesus rose again. He appeared to his disciples many times as a proof of his resurrection. Those who encountered the risen Christ had their lives transformed.

Easter is the day that God tells us that he is in control. The victory belongs to him. Sufferings do happen. Our fear and anxiety are real, and they can be overwhelming. Yet, his presence and love will carry us through. His resurrection tells us that even death could not contain him. What is impossible has become

possible. Through accepting him, we can experience the presence and the love of Jesus with us. There will be times that Christ takes away our pains and suffering, but there will be times he doesn't do that. He transforms them into an experience to know his power, to see his glory and to experience his love.

How are you feeling these days? I suspect life has been difficult. Don't give up. Don't be discouraged. Christ is here and he understands. Trust in him, walk with him, read your bible, say your prayers, and count the many blessings that God has given us. And make sure that we share our love and care to those around us especially those who are in need. Then we will experience the presence and love of the risen Christ.

Easter is a time of hope. These hopes give us peace and perseverance that we will endure through this ordeal.

Happy Easter to all of you! God bless you.