

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISHES OF

ASSUMPTION

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RESURRECTION

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Easter 2021

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.*
(Jn 3:16)

In Bavaria Daffodils are called “Easter Bells”—Osterglocken. They are the flowers that ring in the time of Easter, the first flowers of springtime appearing after the heavy snows of winter.



Easter is a springtime, a time that heralds the new life that comes from the Resurrection of Our Lord. It is a time of spiritual renewal that is read in the signs of nature all around us.

The Resurrection of Jesus points the way; where he has gone before us, he invites us to follow, not by our own natural power—for it is beyond the power of a creature to rise from the dead—but by the grace that flows from the power of the Cross on which Jesus was raised:

And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.
(Jn 12:32)

This is the work of our salvation, that we be “lifted up” and “drawn” to the source of our life both natural and supernatural. And that source is the Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ, eternally united to the Father and the Holy Spirit.

We humans are creatures of hope, creatures of promise. What drives us on is not the past, but the past infused with the hope that what-has-been contains the seed of what-shall-be. What we earnestly desire is to rise above the past and open a path towards a bright future. Springtime is the renewal of our hope, the sprouting again of our undying desire that even death is not an eternal winter. Jesus has shown us in his Person that this is not true, that is, that winter is only for a time and that new life is offered to all who believe in Him.



St. Augustine said a most startling thing. He said that the re-creation of a soul in grace through the waters of baptism is a greater work than the creation of all the world.

This is so, he said, because by grace a human being is lifted up beyond its natural limitations and given a share in divine life. It is only through grace that we have the hope of everlasting life. Grace lifts us beyond what we are capable of on our own and by our own powers. We have not been left to our own devices; God's plan was to rescue us from ourselves, and this he did by taking on our own human life—becoming flesh—and so making a creature's life capable, by his divine power, to enter into his own life. The Easter Vigil is all about the new life we have received through our baptism. And the symbols of water and light, of darkness and dawn, are all about passing from death to new life. This is the story of Easter. This is the story of Jesus Christ, who invites us to bring our story into his own.

The only two things that can satisfy the soul are a person and a story; and even a story must be about a person. When I look across the sun-struck fields, I know in my inmost bones that my joy is not solely in the spring, for spring alone, being always returning, would be always sad. There is somebody or something walking there, to be crowned with flowers: and my pleasure is in some promise yet possible and in the resurrection of the dead.

G.K. Chesterton, "The Priest of Spring"

I wish you the blessings of Our risen Lord this Easter!



Father Philip Creurer
Pastor

