



Remain in my love

Jn 15:9

Easter Message 2022

Did you find Lent a challenging time? I think we can all say that so far 2022 has been very challenging: Covid-19 is still with us and we have witnessed devastating floods in Queensland and New South Wales. At the same time we thank all our emergency and community services and volunteers that stepped in to minimise danger and to offer some relief to those most affected. Many people remain homeless and they know not what the future holds. Will there be a return to normal?

Live streaming and reporting of the floods and of the war in Ukraine must surely have caused us to be saddened and moved to serious reflection on the value of each and every life. The unthinkable war in Ukraine with the terrible loss of life and unspeakable hardship for so many continues.

Pope Francis in his Angelus Address on Sunday 13 March 2022 asked all diocesan and religious communities to increase their moments of prayer for peace. *God is only the God of peace, he is not the God of war, and those who support violence profane his name. Now let us pray in silence for those who suffer, and that God may convert hearts to a steadfast will for peace.*

Each of us should ask: What have I done to assist those in need? Perhaps we have been a little slow in getting off the mark, but it is never too late to reach out to those in need. Caritas may be contacted <http://www.caritas.org.au> or on 1800 024 413. May we not be indifferent to those in need. May we also heed the Pope's call for prayer.

The women at the tomb received the news of the Resurrection. They were filled with great joy and ran to tell the disciples. The disciples on the road to Emmaus took a while before they realised it was the Lord, so we too can be a little slow in coming to the realisation that the risen Lord calls us now as his friends to be his active disciples.

As we celebrate Easter, we have reason to give thanks for the wonderful gifts the Lord has graciously and freely bestowed upon us. May the light of Risen Christ shine brightly bringing hope to our world!

Rejoice and be glad for the Lord is Risen!

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