

## Easter Sunday

### Reflection

I do not know what I would do if I called my family in Fiji today and hear my mother who died 19 years ago, greeting me on the other end of the line. I would be elated and immediately switch to 'video call' to see if it is truly her. I would certainly long to see her smile again, hear her laugh and just delight again in seeing her loving gaze – that gaze which for so long showed how much one was loved. We long so much to see our deceased loved ones again. We know that one thing is certain. We will see them again but not yet. *It is because of today that we are given that hope that one day we shall see them again.* Thanks be to God for the resurrection of his Son that we are given the assurance that there is life after death. While we await the Second Coming of the Lord, we live in hope knowing that on that day all the dead will be raised to life. One the last day our bodies will rise again. What an awesome day that will be!

There is a school of thought that suggests that the Resurrection of Jesus was only a spiritual one. This is of course was never the conviction of the Apostles nor is it part of the Church' s teaching. The Church does not believe nor endorse these types of concepts. Why doesn' t the Church subscribe to this kind of thinking? To say that the resurrection of Jesus was only a spiritual one is a denial of the incarnation of God in the flesh. The Scriptures (Isiah 7:14; Matt 1:20; Lk 1:30; Lk 1:43; ) and the Nicene Creed (*by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man*) proclaims that the Son of God came to live among us in the flesh. St Thomas the Apostles in his doubt the Apostles were able to see the evidence that the resurrection of Jesus is a bodily one: *"Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing (John 20:27)."*

The Catechism reminds us that *"Still, the Christian faith is not a "religion of the book." Christianity is the religion of the "Word" of God, a word which is*

*"not a written and mute word, but the Word which is incarnate and living"(CCC 108).<sup>73</sup>* The Incarnate Word of God entered our human history and dwelt among us. If a person denies the bodily resurrection of Jesus then that person would have to explain the bodily suffering and death of Jesus too. *Was it only a spiritual suffering or a spiritual death?* Such notions or alternative creative thinking about the resurrection of Jesus also deeply affect the teachings of Jesus about the Blessed Eucharist and the Church' s age old belief and teaching on the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. If a person believes that Jesus' resurrection was only a spiritual one, then it will be difficult for that person to believe in the Real Presence of Jesus the Rise Lord in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Truly Present among us in the tabernacle. While there can be opposing thought about the truths of the faith, we can receive unwavering consolation from the Apostles Creed which we profess each time we recite the Rosary, *"I believe in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting."*

Life everlasting awaits those we believe in the Son of God. Today as we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord, let us offer the Blessed Trinity our thanks and praise for leading us into the light – into Christ who is our light and life.

A Blessed Easter to you all!

