



REFLECTION

EASTER 2020: Hope in the Risen Christ

Sr Melissa Dwyer FDCC, Brisbane
8 April 2020

As we celebrate Easter this year, during this extraordinary moment in the history of humanity, we are invited to remember our invitation as Vincentians to be that constant presence of hope in our world.

We are called to open hearts, when all is closed...

We are called to open minds, when fear can overwhelm us...

We are called to never forget that while Church buildings are closed, we are the Church, the hands and feet of Christ, who walks among us, risen from the dead...

Above all, our Vincentian vocation calls us to be resurrection people, bearers of hope so desperately needed at this moment. We are invited to walk these days with Jesus allowing His greatest love on the cross to touch our hearts; we are challenged to believe that life will overcome death, and light will overcome darkness; we are urged to witness to the stone being rolled away from the tomb, empowering us to share with our companions the hope of Easter.

Jesus invites us to gather around Him and by giving us His love, He empowers us to become people capable of loving and of transforming our love into life for others. He calls us to continuously rediscover and further deepen the beauty of our mission that can be realised concretely only in communion amongst us, which has a greater evangelising power than mere words. Jesus gathers us together, He involves us in His own mission and He sends us forth following in the footsteps of Blessed Frederic Ozanam and all of those men and women who have been entrusted with this same Vincentian spirit.

During this global pandemic of 2020, as we seek to bring hope to those around us this Easter, as we celebrate in ways we never have before, may we not forget to be grateful.

Let us be grateful for the nurses and doctors, for lives saved and lives lost, for showing up either way...

Let us be grateful for our leaders, making hard choices for the common good, offering words of assurance...

Let us be grateful for the scientists, working away to understand the thing that plagues us, to find a vaccine...

Let us be grateful for the teachers, finding new ways to educate children from afar...

Let us be grateful for all those who have gone before us, for the wars and plagues they endured and survived, and their resilience that inspires us...

Let us be grateful for every moment of stillness and silence, so new voices can be heard...

And when COVID-19 has passed and we return to our usual pace of life, may we find ourselves able to say that love and generosity of spirit spread more quickly than any virus, and may this entire experience be not just an ending but also a place to begin in new ways our journey and our service as members of the St Vincent de Paul Society.