

Easter Sunday 2024

Pontius Pilate: Joseph I really don't understand. You're one of the richest men in the region, and you've spent a small fortune on a new tomb for you and your family and you want to give it to this man Jesus?

Joseph: it's just for the weekend.

Dear Friends,

I wish a happy Easter to you all. Easter is a solemn victory over death by Jesus for the whole world. Today's world is governed by so much on social media. We hear everything on social media. Some things need basic witness of the event by the core people. Easter Sunday brings the important witnesses to the people at the time and to the whole world even today without any doubt.

At first, they didn't understand the Scripture, today's Gospel tells us. We don't know which precise Scripture texts they were supposed to understand. Perhaps it was the sign of Jonah, who rose from the belly of the great fish after three days (see [Jonah 1:17](#), "And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights"). Or maybe Hosea's prophecy of Israel's restoration from exile (see [Hosea 6:2](#), "After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him").

The readings demonstrate very clearly about the witnesses of Jesus's resurrection. The first one is Peter and the other disciple, Mary Magdalene, and the empty tomb.

The first reading speaks of witness from Peter. Peter explains what happened during those days and he became the witness of Jesus' resurrection. He explains that it was God's plan which is fulfilled in Jesus. It was Peter who was closely associated with Jesus in his ministry. We will reflect on all witness from different people who had been with Jesus before his death.

The tomb was empty. In the early morning darkness of that first Easter, there was only confusion for Mary Magdalene and the other disciples. But as the daylight spread, they saw the dawning of a new creation.

They saw and believed. What did they see? An Empty tomb, the stone removed and clothes that covered his head not with burial clothes, but in a separate place. Tomb is used seven times in nine verses.

They saw and believed and bore witness. We have a witness to Jesus' resurrection when we celebrate the Eucharist.

Easter is the guarantee of our own resurrection. Jesus assured Martha at the tomb of Lazarus: "I am the Resurrection and the Life; whoever believes in me will live even though

he dies" (Jn 11:25-26). Easter is a feast, which gives us hope and encouragement in this world of pain, sorrows, and tears. It reminds us that life is worth living and sharing the joy that you witness today.