

# EASTER HOMILY 2020

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There is a popular children's story that has been animated// and is shown every year around Christmas.// It is about someone who DID NOT LIKE CHRISTMAS// and so they decided// they were going to STEAL Christmas away from the people, that lived in their town!!!//

On Christmas Eve,// while everyone was sleeping,// the Grinch secretly STOLE all their presents, all their decorations and all their holiday foods.// The next day,// when people awoke and found EVERYTHING MISSING,// what did they do???// They gathered in the town square// and sang Christmas Carols!// They came together to celebrate CHRISTMAS,// which is more than gifts,// more than decorations// and more than holiday foods!//

Church,// The Coronavirus has tried to steal Easter! Church,// The Coronavirus has tried to steal Easter!//

The Coronavirus may keep us// from celebrating Easter Eucharist TOGETHER// but the Coronavirus// CAN NOT STOP US from CELEBRATING EASTER.//

Church,// JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD.// BY DEATH HE HAS CONQUERED DEATH// AND TO THOSE IN THE GRAVE HE HAS GRANTED LIFE!!!//

Church,// our Faith in the Resurrection,// is not a substitute for common sense and good hygiene practices.// Church,// our Faith in the Resurrection,// is not a substitute for common sense and good hygiene practices.// Our Faith CAN direct us,// Our Faith CAN direct us,// on how we can find normalcy, in an abnormal time!!!//

Our Gospel today,// describes an ABNORMAL time.// Jesus is dead// and it seems what he had started is also dead.//

Church,// in all 4 Gospels, Mary Magdalene// is the first to go to the tomb on that very first Easter Sunday.// Where was Peter?// Where was the apostle Jesus loved?// WERE THEY SOCIAL DISTANCING THEMSELVES FROM THE TOMB?//

CHURCH,// WHERE, was Peter???// CHURCH,// WHERE, was the apostle Jesus loved?//

Didn't Jesus predict 3 times to his Apostles// that he would die and rise?// Were they not a wee bit curious?// At least they could have gone to the tomb like Mary Magdalene,// to continue the Jewish custom of weeping and mourning!!!!!!//

CHURCH, where WAS Peter?// He was with the other 10,// huddled in the upper room, SCARED, SCARED,SCARED,// because his NORMAL LIFE,// had been turned upside down!!!!//

CHURCH,// where WAS the apostle Jesus loved?// He was with the other 10,// huddled in the upper room, SCARED, SCARED,SCARED,// because his NORMAL LIFE had been turned upside down!!!!//

Isn't it AMAZING,// that the very FIRST WORDS,// the very first words,// Jesus says, after RISING FROM THE DEAD ARE:// Do not be afraid!!!!//

Mmmm,// i wonder WHY he said those words????// Of all the Words he could have said, WHY WERE HIS FIRST WORDS: DO NOT BE AFRAID???

CHURCH,// those who followed Jesus,// had their life turned upside down with his BRUTAL CRUCIFIXION.// CHURCH, those who followed Jesus,// had their life turned totally upside down,// when he died and was buried!!!!//

Jesus KNEW that;// Jesus KNEW that;// and his very first words after his Resurrection are words WE NEED TODAY!!!!// DO NOT BE AFRAID!!!!// DO NOT BE AFRAID!!! // DO NOT BE AFRAID!!!

Church,// The Coronavirus may have taken away our NORMALCY,// but through our faith and hope in the Power of Easter, // we can create a NEW NORMALCY.// A new normalcy where we rearrange our Priorities!!!!// A NEW NORMALCY, // where we no longer put God Second,// A NEW NORMALCY, where we don't take for granted,// our spouse, our children, our parents, our families, our neighbors, our Parish Family!!!!//A NEW NORMALCY, where we don't take for granted,// Teachers, Nurses, Dr.'s, GROCERY WORKERS!!!!

Church,// our belief that Jesus is RISEN FROM THE DEAD,// DOES gives us HOPE,// while we experience these dark times.// Our Faith in the Resurrection,// releases the power of Easter within our own lives.// Our Faith in the Resurrection,// releases the power of Easter within our own lives.//

We CAN face the challenges before us,// by Trusting in the VERY FIRST WORDS// JESUS SAID AFTER RISING FROM THE DEAD:// Do not be afraid!//

Yes, our NORMAL EVERYDAY ROUTINES have been turned upside down,// but our Faith and Trust in Jesus & his Ressurrection,// are meant to be the ever present lighthouse,// in the midst of this terrible and disruptive storm!!!!//

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Maddie, Ally, Kaitlyn, // The Coronavirus CAN NOT STEAL EASTER!// Joey, Joe, Deanna,// The Coronavirus CAN NOT STEAL EASTER!// CHURCH// The Coronavirus CAN NOT STEAL EASTER!// BECAUSE; JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD!!!!

Amen?  
Amen!