



Kyo.Prot.N.23/2021

JESUS OF NAZARETH WHO WAS CRUCIFIED HAS RISEN. ALLELUIA!

An Easter 2021 Message from Bishop Otsuka

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Kyoto Diocese,

On the morning of the Lord's resurrection, a cry of joy resounds throughout the world from the tomb of Jesus. I wish you all a happy Easter. I also send congratulations to the new believers baptized in this Easter season. Welcome to your new family, the Kyoto Diocese.

Last year's Holy Week was early in the pandemic, and so the Church could not celebrate the sacred liturgies. The situation was such that we could not even offer one another our Easter greetings. Even though over the past year we have seen repeated states of emergency, to the extent that it has been possible we have celebrated Mass and carried on various activities to the limited extent that we were able. You have patiently followed the Church's policies and cooperated generously. Thank you very much.

That is why this Easter I want to join all of you in expressing our gratitude and praise to God the Father, the giver of life, and Christ the risen Lord of the Resurrection, who continues to be close to those who suffer, offering them comfort and healing.

Pope Francis has declared the Year of St. Joseph, calling on the world and the Church to deepen our love for St. Joseph, the patron of the Church, to pray for his intercession, and to follow his virtues. Let us pray through the intercession of St. Joseph for those who during this pandemic imitate him by persevering each day for their families and their work, and especially for those whose work is inconspicuous but essential.

Unfortunately, the end of the coronavirus disaster is yet not in sight, and in fact the infection seems to be spreading. Sisters and Brothers, for a while longer let us spare no effort in preventing the spread of this infection and treat any sacrifices we must make as acts of love toward our neighbors. Even if we must once again refrain from Mass, let us pray for patience, hope, health and safety to Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Resurrection, who is with us, to "protect all life."

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Vigil of Easter

April 3, 2021

✙ Paul Yoshinao Otsuka
Catholic Bishop of Kyoto