EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026.

JESUS IS ALIVE… A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD.

"Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." (Acts 10:34-43. NIV)

Today is the greatest day of the year. The tomb is empty. Jesus is alive. And that changes everything.

Easter celebration a very special day for many reasons.

Matthew 28:8-10: In Matthew's account of the resurrection, "Then Jesus said to them, '***Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."***

In this passage, Jesus refers to his disciples as "brothers". This indicates a new and different relationship that Jesus has with us. We who are now his disciples are his brothers and sisters and are now entrusted with the message and mission of the risen Jesus Christ. Therefore, as we share the Easter joy, we are being sent out with one great mission: to announce the Resurrection. Not just with words, but with our lives transformed by burning hope. The early Christians changed the world not by power and dominance, but by zealous witness - by the way they loved, and rejoiced, even in the face of trials.

The Gospel passage concludes that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala

meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society, women could not serve as legal witnesses. Mary of Magdala, the story of these women is told. At his resurrection, Jesus changed all that. He first appeared to these women who came to the tomb. They were the first eyewitness of the risen Lord. Mary becomes the apostle to the apostles. These women were to carry the good news to the apostles. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them.

At the Easter Vigil, we joyfully welcomed and celebrated new members into St Pius X family. We are so happy that they are now fully part of us. They are a testament to God's ongoing work, bringing hope and validation to our ministry. Their faces and commitments on this journey highlight that the body of Christ is alive and growing, creating opportunities to form new, meaningful relationships. They bring fresh energy and gifts to our dynamic family. Our Eucharistic table is truly richer and fuller this season.

So today, we have two amazing truths: The tomb is empty, and the altar is full. The same Jesus who rose from the dead comes to us in Holy Communion. It’s easy to think Easter is just something we celebrate once a year. But every time we come to Mass, we meet the risen Jesus again. The question is, do we come with joy? Do we come expecting Him? Do we come ready to receive Him? Easter means this: Jesus is not dead. He is alive. And He is still coming to meet His people.

Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—through his appearances and the gift of the Holy Spirit. So today, rejoice. Be amazed. And come forward with faith. Because the risen Jesus is coming to you.

Prayer:

May the Risen Lord strengthen our faith that we may know Him and the Power of His resurrection, to remain obedient and to always give Him the first place in our lives. May we allow the teachings and values of Christ to determine and color our daily decisions and choices. Amen. Christ is risen. Alleluia.

Happy Easter to you all. Amen.

Fr. Martin Ezeihuaku, MSP.