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# Alleluia!

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**EASTER MESSAGE TO THE DIOCESE  
OF ST. JOHN'S- BASSETERRE**

**2022**



## Easter Message 2022

### *“Alleluia”*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Once again we are celebrating our Easter 'joy', our Alleluia, as we contemplate the mystery of the Risen Christ, the Son of God who entered our world to save and redeem us. Easter draws our attention to the power of God to heal, to restore, to transform and give new life where sin and death once reigned.

Alleluia is the joyful sound of a world redeemed, no longer slaves to sin and darkness. It is the sound of a people who know they are loved by an infinitely loving God who would do anything to capture their hearts, including giving His only Son as a sacrifice for them.

Easter is our victory, our way to heaven and life in God. In the face of the impossible, Christ is Risen from the Tomb. But how is it possible to speak of such things in a world that seems more than ever before to embrace every kind of evil, every kind of human degradation, every kind of betrayal of the truth. Whole nations live a lie as in Russia; war is still rampant in the world with no regard for human life as in Ukraine; hunger and starvation are everywhere as in Afghanistan and Shanghai. World economies are at a crossroad and the Covid-19 pandemic refuses to go away whilst the world's climate seems to want to take revenge on our abusive human behaviour, Indeed, the list can go on and on.

The truth is, **it is** possible to speak of Easter joy today if we remember the path that Jesus took to get there. He showed us in Himself that the path to glory and true freedom is through Calvary.

Truth and Justice and Love will triumph in the end but not without persecution, suffering and trials of every kind. The seeds of Truth, Justice and Love have been planted in the hearts of humankind by

the Risen Christ, but they must be seen to die before they can bear much fruit and generate new life.

It is the story of our salvation history. When one part of humanity is suffering and broken another part is called to heroic acts of love, justice, and charity. When civilians in the Ukraine are being tortured and killed, the refugees from this nation in the millions are being cared for in neighbouring countries through heroic acts of charity, kindness, and compassion. This happens everywhere. Where one person is broken and in need, another steps forward to exhibit heroic acts of love. This is the victory of Easter; Love and Truth will always prevail because evil and darkness have already been defeated in Jesus Christ.

Truth, Justice, and Love are perfected and victorious only through suffering and the death of what it is evil in us and in the world. But this entire process requires a very important gift from God; it is the grace of Faith.

We must pray for the gift of Faith as Jesus told Peter, James, and John “pray that your faith will not fail you”. It is with an ever-deeper love for God and others and the maturing of our faith that we can look at our broken world today and still sing, Alleluia, Christ Has Risen. Only when we can see through the eyes of faith are our hearts filled with hope and our resolve to trust God strengthened.

But that faith must be turned into action or ‘works’ as St. James tells us. It is those acts of faith with love that bring about the transformation of the world and the coming of God’s Kingdom of Truth, Justice and Love.

As we sing Alleluia this Easter let us resolve to become an Easter people filled with faith and love, witnessing to Christ’s victory everywhere.

With Easter blessings,  
Bishop Robert A. Llanos



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