**Easter Sunday, Cycle. B. 2024.**

**Today, we are celebrating the day that was and ever will be the most significant day in the history of the wo**rld. And that is to say a lot. Our world has seen a lot of changes, some wonderful, such as inventions that changed our ways of doing things and our ways of living; **some not so wonderful; such as inventions that could wipe out an entire nation in a few seconds.**

Some people might argue that Christmas is the most important day in History, **when Gods’ Son came into this w**orld, **but Gods’ Son and all he did and taught would have been quickly forgotten without the resurrection.** His disciples who had the responsibility of proclaiming his name and his teachings- were afraid to say that they had ever heard of Jesus after he was arrested. The women who followed him even to Calvary were sure his ministry was at an end when they came to put the finishing touches on his burial.

The empty tomb and the angel that proclaimed, “***He is not here, He has been raised”***, left them running from the tomb, trembling and bewildered. Mark leaves us bewildered when he ends his gospel by telling us ***“they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid”***. It was strange the way Mark ended his gospel without telling us about any of the appearances of Jesus as the other Gospels did. Surely Mark knew about the appearances of the Risen Lord to his disciples, **for Mark was writing 30 to 40 years after Jesus died and ros**e. As soon as the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples 50 days after Easter, the apostles **started preaching openly about Jesus’ Resu**rrection. And the earliest actual document we have about the Resurrection and Jesus appearing to his followers was written **by Paul to the Corinthians about 15 years before Mark was written.**

Surely Mark has a purpose in ending the Gospel so abruptly. He is telling us **its’ up to us to the spread the good n**ews about **Jesus’ resurrection.**

**Indeed the Resurrection** of Jesus was significant for Jesus and his followers 2000 years ago, but it is also significant for each one of us. Not only Jesus **rise and show us death did not have the last word in his short life but the Resu**rrection tells us death does not have the last word in any of our lives. God wants us to share in **Jesus’ Resurrection and new life and to be with him forever.**

God has better plans for us than for us to live out our lives here in this world and then for it to all to be ended. Jesus tells us in John 10; 10, “***I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly***”. These words keep us going, they keep us full of hope, they keep us full of expectation even when very good friends pass away- and we are experiencing that more and more as we get older. Paul says, clearly, “***If we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him”***. The last words from the angel in today’s Gospel also say it clearly, “***He goes before you”.***

**My Dear Fri**ends, whoever you were yesterday, doesn’t matter, whatever you did in the past or ways you have strayed doesn’t matter, whatever problems you are having or grief you are carrying or crosses you are carrying-these don’t win. They don’t get the best of us. They don’t get the last say. They are not the end of the story. **God wins, every single time-** and therefore gives us an opportunity to wake up each and every day and be the person not only we want to be, but the person God wants to be for God, for ourselves and for the world. That’s;’ what it **means to be a resurrection pe**ople, an alleluia people, a people of faith, a people who live in the light and power of what we are celebrating today. Every Good Friday can and will be followed by an Easter Sunday.

So let us celebrate this day with deep gratitude and love for God has done for us. Let us realize that a beautiful world is possible, a new Eden. But it will come only if we infuse it with the love of God which is beyond understanding. Its’ in our hands- not because it has to be so, but because God wants it, so invites us to work with him, to walk with him transforming this world. That’s not a burden but a gift. God could do it alone, but he chooses not to- and He does so because he loves us and knows what we are capable of doing.. **What a God we have**!

**So, Today is sig**nificant. It is central for everything we do. It is the basis for our hope for heaven; it is the reason we know Christ is in the Eucharist; it is the reason we attend Mass on Sunday; it is the reason why we try to live good lives. **The victory has been won! He is risen.** And each of us gets a share in that victory. Morning has broken. Thank you for coming today; thank you for your faith. **My prayer is that we always live our lives with resurrection faith.** Have a Blessed Easter to everyone.