

Hello!

Good morning, and every blessing on this Easter Morning! Our Lord has Risen and we will rejoice!

If you ask a non-Christian which is the most important festival for Christians, they will most probably answer 'Christmas'. We need to teach people that they are wrong! Easter is the most important date in the Christian year. If it wasn't for Easter we would never celebrate Christmas.

This year, Easter is different. The outward signs are no longer there. Churches are closed. We can't get together as a community to celebrate this glorious morning. People aren't able to meet up with families for get-togethers. There are no short breaks away. No one is rushing to the garden centre to stock up on Spring plants. Easter egg hunts, Easter bonnet competitions, all gone. But **Easter** is still here. The real Easter still happens despite the absence of all of these things. I pray that during this time of lockdown you have discovered that God doesn't need a church building. We don't need to go to church to worship God. God is present with us in our homes. Our homes are places of worship, places of prayer, places where we can encounter the Living God. God is present within each one of us in the form of His Holy Spirit. We may be physically apart from our church family this Easter morning, but the Holy Spirit joins us together in a wonderful unity of faith and fellowship.

I pray that this Easter you will discover that the real meaning of Easter Sunday is more easily found, for God is all around you and within you. I pray that you will be safe in your home, knowing that our God loves you - Easter Day is the proof.

I found a great poem written in the same style as 'The night before Christmas' and I attach it here.

I also attach the reflection for this Blessed Easter Sunday.
Please feel free to share them.

May you feel the love of God surrounding you today and always

Valerie