



**Christ est ressuscité!
En Vérité,
Il est ressuscité**

**Christ is risen!
Indeed, He is risen**

EASTER MESSAGES

from the bishops of the communion of Western Orthodox Churches



Paschal Message from Metropolitan Marc

Saint Tugdual wrote: "...therein lies life; for life is incompatible with death, and if through the Lord Christ we share in his glorious Resurrection, we too have already been raised in him. We can only live by the Life of the One who lives forever and ever."

On Easter morning, the empty tomb is not the witness of a mere man raised from the dead, like Lazarus, the brother of Martha and Mary (Jn 11:1-43), it is Christ, God and man, who rises in our humanity, and in all creatures, as a theophany as yet hidden. The beauty of spring and youth delight us, but an even greater beauty awaits manifestation within us, whatever our age or condition.

The Risen Christ is our own resurrection. Through baptism, we have been buried with Christ and also raised with Him (Col 2:12). We have become a new person through a new life if we accept to give ourselves to God as He gives Himself to us. The practice of the Christian life - the work of prayer, and the sacramental life - manifest the divine glory within us. This is what Saint Paul illustrates when he says: "All of us, with unveiled faces, reflecting as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed... from glory to glory..." (2 Cor 3:18).

The Resurrection of Christ can only truly be proclaimed to the world through the glory that is to be revealed progressively in man and through man in all things. This may seem too great or too vast to us in the light of our human frailty, yet the Apostle Paul assures us that the Light of Christ "has shone in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God" (2 Cor 4:6)

Whoever aspires to this glory never lacks divine grace. The world is unaware that it ardently desires this new life. Nevertheless, only a glorified heart can bring Christ to the world.

To all, a holy and radiant Easter!

Christ is truly Risen within us!

+Marc - Primate of The Celtic Orthodox Church

<https://eglise-orthodoxe-celtique.org/>

From Bishop Nicolas

"Christ is risen!" and we respond with joy: "Truly, He is risen!"

Yes, dear brothers and sisters, He is truly risen; there is no doubt about it. The disciples on the road to Emmaus confirm this (Luke 24:13-35).

He suffered for us, He died on the cross for us, He descended into hell and freed the dead for us, He rose from hell as the conqueror of death for us, He is risen and seated at the right hand of the Father for us.

Through His death He conquered death. All who live for Him and in Him need no longer fear death, for it has been definitively conquered!

God the Father offered His Son to save us from the evil we have done to ourselves and to open the gates of His Kingdom to us, to offer us eternal life.

Let us be grateful! Let us give thanks! Let us strive to live the life that Jesus teaches us, for everything Jesus does, He does out of love for us.

So, when we proclaim 'Christ is risen' and respond 'truly He is risen', let us not do so out of habit but out of love for the One who loves us so deeply.

I wish you a wonderful, radiant week with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ is risen!

+Nicolas – Bishop of the Celtic orthodox Church in Switzerland

<http://www.eoc-ch.ch/>



From Bishop Martin

On Good Friday, on the Cross, through His 'Eli, Eli, lema Sabachtani,' Christ cried out, for a brief moment, the sensation of His divinity being forsaken; the crucified God seemed to have become an atheist and He had then joined all humanity walled up behind the heavy stone of its prison...

When that stone crumbled before the unheard-of power of the Spirit raising Christ's body from the dead — a body laid in the new tomb — all creation rejoiced. The Light of the Resurrection illuminated every corner of the cosmos.

Everything is now open....Everything is possible once more....

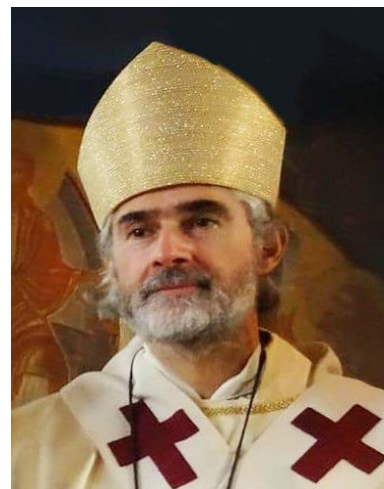
This is the only true REVOLUTION that humanity has known since the beginning. And the Church, the mystical body of the Risen One, is its custodian...

Let us enter into the triumphant joy of our Master; let us hasten our steps towards the Kingdom of Eternal Light; let us sing to Christ the hymn of His victory with the whole universe...

Warm Easter blessings...

+Martin
French Orthodox Church

<https://www.eof.fr/>



From Bishop Gregoire

Beloved Sons and Daughters

Christ is risen! — Truly He is risen!

This cry of joy rang out one morning in Jerusalem and has been echoed throughout the world ever since, year after year, century after century...

On this luminous Easter night, I invite you to let the light of the empty tomb penetrate and illuminate our hearts and renew our hope.

The Resurrection is not merely an event of the past that we commemorate: it is the living source that nourishes our present and opens up our future.

Saint John Chrysostom reminded us: "Death has been vanquished, hell has been stripped bare:" nothing can now stifle the joy that God offers to those who turn to Him. In our world marked by anxiety and disorder, the risen Christ teaches us to walk without fear, for His victory is already assured.

"The glory of God is man fully alive," Saint Irenaeus told us. By rising from the dead, Christ restores within us this true life, the life that springs from communion with Him. Let us welcome this new life; let it transform our relationships, our choices, our communities.

May the peace of the Risen One be with you, may it visit your families, may it strengthen the sick, may it put an end to conflicts, may it console those who are suffering, and may it inspire everyone to become a humble and joyful witness to the Gospel.

With my apostolic blessing, I say to you once again from the bottom of my heart:
Christ is risen!

+Gregory

by the mercy of God, Bishop of Arles and of the Orthodox Church of Gaul

<https://www.egliseorthodoxedesgaules.org/>

