

Catholic Church of the Presentation - Montana

Parish Priest : Fr Sam Madza SMA - Cell: 063 157 5421 (Emergencies only please) **Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday 09:00 -12:00 **Office Telephone :** 012 543 2771

Addresses: 214 Veronica Rd, PO Box 908862, Montana 0151, Pretoria **Email :** montana.catholic.pretoria@gmail.com **Website :** montanacatholicchurch.com

Is it true?

Is it true that the man who was crucified on the cross is risen? Is it true that God has kept His promise to the one who cried out 'my God, my God! why have you abandoned me'? While the deaths of people infected by the covid-19 rises globally, here we are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus.

It was folly to many in his days, it is folly to many right now. Jesus himself said, 'look I am making all things new.' We can no longer live the same way now that death has been defeated in Christ. This is the turning point of history because sin has no power over us. Fleming Rutledge the theologian says sin in the scriptures is more catastrophic than ordinary wrong doing; it helplessly traps.

Right now we all live with the stark reality of our frailty as human beings bearing in mind that we are only but a shadow of what we shall be in the future after death. therefore, our outlook of faith (kept, keeps and will keep) our eyes fixed on life hereafter.

Let us not be the kind of Christians Pope Francis talks about in his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (the joy of the Gospel) who are stuck in the Lenten season. We are in a hopeful suspense because we have been given the gift of faith. Faith is the key that unlocks the door of Easter. We may have all the facts like the disciples but be unbelieving.

Jesus shows us that he has power over the wrappings of death. hence, the empty tomb, unbound burial cloths, and the witnesses. There is a subtle contrast when he raised Lazarus from the dead. He was still bound and his face was covered by the wrappings of death.

In the Eastern church, members wish each other happy Easter by saying "Christ is risen," and the response is "He is truly." It is true. Jesus is indeed risen. Have a blessed Easter

Fr Sam Madza SMA

Participating in Holy Mass during Easter

On Radio 576AM and on DSTV Audio Channel 870 Live Streaming: www.radioveritas.co.za

- Eater Vigil 9-00pm (live from Rome)
- Easter Sunday 10-00am (live from Rome)

Jesuit Institute Live Video Streaming www.jesuitinstitute.org.za/masses

- Easter Sunday mass 9-00am

The Vatican – Pope Francis : You Tube : Shalom World www.shalomtvlive/vatican or www.vaticannews.va/en.htm

- Easter Vigil Mass 9-00pm
- Easter Mass 10-00 am

Please see the accompanying reflection upon the Readings of Easter and a suggested short service to celebrate the Easter Vigil at home

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

Let us pray this week especially for:

- All in our country who are inflicted with Covid -19 that they may soon be returned to health.
- The dedicated medical professionals who are called upon to care for the sick and suffering during this time of disaster. May they receive strength and support to keep going.
- All who are in fear and face grave uncertainty. May we be moved to reach out to them and spread the Light of Christ to give them hope.
- That the Easter message of Hope and Salvation will find new meaning to us all at this time

Message from the Parish Finance Committee

We wish to thank those families that contribute to the funding of our parish through pledges and regular EFT payments. We ask that those who normally contribute via the Sunday Collections consider use of EFT – bank details are shown below – to help support the parish at this time.

Parish Bank Account for regular pledges and EFT : Bank: Standard Bank, Montana Kolonnade Beneficiary: THE CHURCH OF THE PRESENTATION
Account number: 013157108 Reference : Allocated Pledge number or anonymous if preferred.