

## Why are you looking for the living among the dead?

**He is risen and He lives - Alleluia!**

**Easter 2021.**



**Dear Sisters, dear Employees in our Schools, Kindergartens and Day Care Centres, dear Friends and Benefactors of our religious Community and our Apostolates!**

Happy Easter greetings to all of you!

We celebrate Easter, the highest Celebration of the liturgical Church year. We are celebrating Easter for the second time in a very special and challenging time. Hardly anyone would have thought last year that we would have such significant restrictions at the next Easter. But we

celebrate Easter because we need this Celebration, we need this Message of Hope and Joy more than anything else at this moment.

For me as a child, Holy Week and Easter were the high points of the year. The impressive liturgy of these days, but also the various Traditions that accompany this time, have impressed and shaped me very much.

In the accompanying traditions, I think of the distribution of palm branches in the fields and in the stable, of the rattling on Holy Thursday, of the Grave guard on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, the blessing of food on Holy Saturday or the decorating of the Holy Grave and much more.

One custom particularly touched me. It was the walk of women of my town into the cemetery on Easter Sunday before dawn, as described in the Gospel. As a child and adolescent, I wasn't allowed to go with them. I have been told that this going to the Grave was reserved for married women. This walk was very important to my mother.

I think that the Gospel account of the women walking to the tomb where Jesus was buried, fits in our time. They wanted to do one last service of love to the dead Lord and have brought fragrant ointments and herbs with them. Sorrow and pain filled their hearts. They asked each other who was going to take the stone away from the grave. It turned out quite differently.

The way to joy, to hope, to trust, to the encounter with the risen Lord often seems to us to be closed with a heavy stone. Who will help us push the stone away? We ourselves shouldn't and must not have to remove this stone of our fear, bitterness, insecurity, our discouragement and fatigue. The stone is gone, the grave is empty, the Lord is risen, he lives. Life wins!

I wish from the bottom of my heart that we will have this experience again and again. Often it is only small signs that give us an Idea of Christ's presence. Let us open ourselves to this signs, this light and let us carry it on.

Happy and blessed Easter.

Sr. M. Petronilla