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Contact one of the priests for special sacraments, consultations or if you wish to learn to serve for the Act of Consecration of Man

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The Christian Community
movement for religious renewal

In Great Britain and Ireland

Bristol congregation



Letter to the Congregation
Easter 2025

20a St Johns Rd, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 2EX

EASTER AS THE FESTIVAL OF THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

Dear Bristol members and friends,

*Christ has risen!
He has risen indeed!*

This is a traditional greeting on Easter day in the orthodox church. It is based on the Gospel of Luke: the apostles say to Cleopas and his companion after they have recognized the Lord on their way to Emmaus "*The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!*" (Luke 24,34)

Compare the significance, the weight of the message to any news on radio or television. It is an incredible message. It is incredible indeed! For our modern world is so materialistic. Everything is matter and can be explained by processes of the matter at the atomic and molecular level. Human thinking, feeling and willing are fully determined and explained by the atomic and subatomic processes. For this worldview it is true to say "In the beginning was matter." But it is equivalent to say: "In the beginning was death."

And now think of the beginning of the Gospel of John: "In the beginning was the Word." In the beginning was the Word of God, in the origin was the living creative Word and He was the source of all Life. The Fall of the human beings meant that they fell deeper into the material world. And they took the whole world in their descent. And death came into the world. But He has overcome death. Death did not have the power to hold the living Word of the origin.

*Christ has risen!
He has risen indeed!*

May we proclaim with enthusiasm and courage this message like the apostles we want to become.

Warm wishes,

Jean-Marie

also in the name of Aaron, Carmel and Liza
10th March 2025

Note: image of front page: painting by Eugène Burnand (1850-1921).
Pierre and John running to the tomb on Easter Sunday.

John clasps his hand in prayer while Peter holds his hand over his heart. They are sprinting towards discovery of the moment that forever altered heaven and earth.

No one is pointing to an empty tomb: we are in motion. Through the movement and immediacy of the scene, the preceding minutes with Mary Magdalene are palpable. In a sense, she is in the painting too. You can almost hear her voice in the background: "*They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.*" John 20:2

Look into Peter's wide open eyes and John's intense gaze. Their eyes contain a mix of anxiousness and hope. They do not know what they are going to find. They do not know yet that Christ has risen.

This painting is in the Musée d'Orsay in Paris and very often people come and ask just for this painting. It is one of the most famous paintings of the whole museum: because it touches the hearts of each one of us.

Are we going to find the resurrected one? How will this encounter be?
