



**EASTER MESSAGE BY FR. PAT ON JOHN 20: 1-9  
(SS. ISIDORE & MARIA TORRIBIA PARISH)**

**MARY MAGDELEN, SIMON PETER, AND JOHN, THE BELOVED DISCIPLE, DISCOVER AN EMPTY TOMB ON EASTER MORNING. THEY THINK THE BODY OF JESUS HAS BEEN STOLEN BY THIEVES. AS THE GOSPEL SAYS, *THEY DID NOT YET UNDERSTAND THE SCRIPTURE THAT HE HAD TO RISE FROM THE DEAD.***

**THESE PAST WEEKS AS I HAVE CELEBRATED PRIVATE MASSES IN OUR CHURCHES, I HAVE HAD THAT SAME EXPERIENCE OF FACING AN ÉMPTY TOMB”. IT IS NOT SO MUCH THAT DEAD PEOPLE WERE HERE, BUT THAT WITHOUT YOU, THE FAITHFUL, SO ALIVE IN YOUR FAITH AND LOVE FOR GOD, THE PLACE SEEMS LIKE AN EMPTY TOMB. PLUS, THE REASON FOR IT**

**BEING EMPTY, THIS CORONA VIRUS, THAT BRINGS A FEAR OF FEAR OF DEATH TO ALL OUR PEOPLE, BRINGS THAT SENSE OF IMPENDING DOOM AND “THE TOMB”.**

**YET, THE EMPTY TOMB IN THE GOSPEL IS NOT THE LAST WORD. FOR IN THE FOLLOWING VERSES, MARY MAGDALENE, WEEPING OUTSIDE THE TOMB, ENCOUNTERS THE RISEN JESUS DISGUISED AS THE GARDENER, SO THAT SHE DOES NOT RECOGNIZE HIM AT FIRST UNTIL HE PRONOUNCES HER NAME. THEN HE SENDS HER TO THE APOSTLES TO TELL THEM THAT HE IS RISEN INDEED. SHE BECOMES THE FIRST WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION! SHE IS FULL OF HOPE AS SHE LEAVES THE EMPTY TOMB WITH JOY.**



**WHAT ABOUT YOU? HAS THIS TIME OF SEPARATION AND ISOLATION LEFT YOU IN SORROW IN AN EMPTY TOMB? DO YOU FIND YOURSELF FEELING CUT OFF FROM THAT SOURCE OF LIFE WHICH NOT ONLY FED YOU IN THE EUCHARIST AT MASS, BUT GAVE YOU HOPE AS YOU ENCOUNTERED CHRIST IN YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE COMMUNITY OF THE FAITHFUL? NOW PUBLIC MASSES ARE SUSPENDED. IT IS AS IF THE ROCK HAS BEEN ROLLED ACROSS THE TOMB AND WE HAVE NO ACCESS TO THE BODY OF CHRIST...FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, HE SEEMS DEAD.**

**BUT NO!! HE IS ALIVE!!! JUST AS HE APPEARED TO MARY MAGDALENE, HE ALSO APPEARS TO YOU EACH AND EVERY DAY. YOU MAY NOT SEE HIM WITH YOUR PHYSICAL EYES, BUT YOU**



**CAN SEE HIM WITH THE EYES OF FAITH. HE IS BESIDE YOU, HE IS BEFORE YOU, GAZING INTO YOUR FACE WITH EYES OF LOVE. HE KNOWS WHAT YOU ARE GOING THROUGH. HE KNOWS WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE IN YOUR SKIN!! HE REACHES HIS HANDS OUT TO YOU...TAKE THEM INTO YOURS, AND PLACE YOUR LIFE, AND ALL CARES AND CONCERNS, WORRIES AND FEARS, INTO HIS HANDS, AND TRUST IN HIM. ASK HIM TO HELP YOU LOVE HIM AND TRUST HIM MORE AND MORE.**

**THIS WILL PASS. LIVE IN HOPE. KNOW WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU. COME BE WITH US AGAIN. YOU ARE ALWAYS IN OUR PRAYERS...AND OUR LOVE.**