

APRIL 5 2026 FATHER VIJAI AMIRTHARAJ

One Easter Sunday morning, a priest asked his gathered congregation, “Why did Mary Magdalene go to the tomb so early in the morning?” And a woman sitting right at the front pew quickly raised up her hand and said, “Because she wanted to beat the traffic.” Now, those of us who live in big cities know what it means to beat the traffic. Now, sisters and brothers, as a community of today, we gather together with great joy to celebrate the most important feast of our Christian faith, the feast of life conquering death, light conquering darkness, hope conquering despair, and joy conquering sorrow in and through the person of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Today’s Gospel tells us that Mary Magdalene came to the tomb while it was still dark, yet it was precisely there, in that place of darkness, a space where death seemed to have its final word, God speaks the most clearest and hopeful words. “He is not here. He is risen.”

Now, the resurrection is not simply something that happened long ago or it is not simply a happy ending to a tragic story. Rather, it is God’s way of saying that God’s power, God’s life, and God’s light is stronger and more powerful than any darkness that we or our world can ever experience.

And Easter also tells us that no tomb is sealed forever. Not the tombs of our fear, of our past regrets, or our grief, or our doubts, or our weariness that comes from our life. God’s spirit enters every one of these places and breathes new life, even where we thought no life was ever possible.

Now, sisters and brothers, resurrection is not only something that we believe in, it’s not something we just celebrate on Easter Sunday as a faith community. It is something that we each of us are invited to live as we journey through life.

As we hear again and again, we are a resurrection people, we are Easter people, and each time we forgive someone, each time we say a kind word to someone, each time we offer our comforting words to someone, and each time we bring hope into people's lives, what we do is we breathe new life, we bring restoration, and we bring resurrection in someone else's life, and also into our own lives, and that is our mission, and that is our Easter mission as Christians, as believers in the risen Lord.

It won't be an understatement for me to say that there is so much darkness in our world today. Wars, violence, divisions, racial tensions, political turmoil just to name a few.

We can either be overwhelmed with everything that is going around us in our world, or we can simply strive to bring hope and life into our own corners of our world, in our families, in our communities to start with. So, let us go forth today with deepened faith in our risen Lord, and let us go today with renewed hope, fully aware that whenever we think that the story is over, God is already writing something new. Alleluia.