

My Beloved Parishioner

“Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid!” (MK6:50), I am greatly reminded of our Lord’s words at this time of crisis and uncertainty. We are in Holy Week, the most important and holiest season and time of our Liturgical season where We commemorate, celebrate and participate in the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord. At this point, our churches are shut down and Masses and other services in the Church are cancelled to the public due to the unprecedented pandemic of the Coronavirus in our country and around the world.

Our Lenten journey started forty days ago, and we made every attempt to follow our Lord more closely during this season by fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Even though we are unable to gather physically to worship our Lord and celebrate our faith during holy season, we do have and keep close to our hearts many beautiful memories of these celebrations of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. Jesus instituted the greatest Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Priesthood and gave to us the lessons on love, service and humility by washing of the feet of His disciples. Love of God was sacrificed on the cross to save us from sin and death. We are going through a Good Friday experience, a difficult time with struggles and suffering due to this pandemic. We keep close to our hearts the Lord’s suffering and supreme sacrifice for each of us. We are unsure of this situation, of these uncertainties and what we are going through, but let us submit our life, our nation and the world to the Lord and pray for a better tomorrow. We are Easter people. By his life, death and resurrection, Jesus won for us a new life and showed us that heaven awaits us. We who believe that Jesus has risen gloriously on the third day from the dead has the power to raise us from illness, anxiety, struggles, despair, crisis, fear to a life of wholeness, happiness, fullness, joy and peace.

Mass is not cancelled at our Church. Mass is still being celebrated every day privately. Our primary importance is for the health and safety of each member. Our faith in God is so strong and deep that nothing, even devastation like this Coronavirus can defeat us. Please be assured of my daily Mass and prayers for each one of you. Please watch Mass and our worship on Television or through other social medias and receive spiritual communion and be strengthened. Pray for our parish, our country and the world. Keep our faith strong and alive. I pray and wait for the day when this pandemic disappears and we join to worship God and celebrate our faith in person. May you have an Easter of Joy and optimism. Happy Easter!

Fr. Benny Jose