

He is not here!
Four words that mean so much!
Four words that changed the four corners of the world.
Four words that mean - Christ is risen, alleluia.

Today is the central feast of Christianity. It is our most famous feast.

Egyptian pyramids are world-famous as one of the “seven Wonders” of the ancient world. But they are actually gigantic tombs containing the mummified bodies of Egyptian Pharaohs. Westminster Abby is famous, and thousands visit it because the dead bodies of famous writers, philosophers and politicians are entombed there.

But there is another Shrine in Jerusalem that is famous too. Yet it is unique because the tomb is empty. He was buried there is not there. He worked the most important miracle in His life, defying the laws of nature and proving that He is God.

That is why St. Paul writes: “If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain; and your Faith is in vain... And if Christ has not been raised, then your Faith is a delusion and you are still lost in your sins...”

If Jesus Christ did not rise from the dead, then the Church is a fraud and faith is a sham. But if Jesus really did rise from the dead, his message is true! Without the Resurrection, Jesus would have remained forever a good person who had met a tragic end.

All the basic doctrines of Christianity are founded on the truth of the Resurrection. “Jesus is Lord; He is risen!” (Rom 10:9) There is a story of two women who stood before Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. One asked, “Why can't we build structures like this anymore?” Her friend answered, “The people who built this had Faith. Today we have only opinions. And you can't build a cathedral with opinions.”

The risen Christ called himself the light of the world. He did not say I have the light, but that I am the light – he defines himself as light. Why? To answer that question we need to answer another question.

What does light do? Three things.

1. Light dispels darkness. In fact darkness is the lack of light – its absence. Christ lacks sinfulness or evil.
2. Light let's us see. The truth lies not within. Truth is the correspondence with what lies without. Any and every truth is known only because my mind and reality are in conformity. As air is given shape by a balloon and water by the glass, so too my mind takes in truth and gives it form.
3. Light leads us from here to there. A torch or the headlights let's us see ahead. Christ is the light. Christ leads us. We ere led last night in the Paschal Procession, the blessed Candle complete with five nails for his five ounds, led us here. We are being led daily, if we but let him.

Whence are we being led? We are being led to him. He is the life, he is the resurrected life. He wants us to have that life. And the light leads us to that life. Note that the light always remains outside, external to us, while his life dwells within. It is spiritual life that he gives to the soul. It is his risen life with he bestows on our souls and that life is called grace.