

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, April 9, 2023
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
Cycle A

Today's gospel reading tells us that Mary of Magdala came to the tomb where Jesus was buried and she saw the stone removed from the tomb. This small detail says a lot about Easter.

Easter is all about removing the stone from the tomb. It is about rolling back the stone of the tomb and opening the door of our life to Christ.

If we are to experience "resurrection life" daily, we must remove "the stone" that keeps us inside the tomb. It may be the stone of selfishness and self-centeredness – of our selfish ambition, self-seeking ways, hidden agenda or vested interest. You have made your life merely as your personal project – without even considering God's design. It may be the stone of too much regret and guilt about the past, and too much worry and anxiety about the future.

You are stuck in the past and fixated on the future, so much so that you miss living in the present. It may be the stone of pessimism in your thinking or defeatism in your mentality and attitude. You fail to see and appreciate the blessings you receive and the good things that happen in your life precisely because you are focused on the negatives. It may be the stone of false security that is rooted in the accumulation of material things.

You live in the constant fear of not having enough, therefore, you work to death to have more of more. It may be the stone of wounded memory due to an experience of rejection or betrayal. You are afraid to trust and love again; you do not dare to enter into a new relationship because you are afraid to get hurt again.

Let us get rid of things that prevent us from experiencing the unleashing of the power of Christ's Resurrection. Let us allow Christ's Resurrection to empower us to overcome selfishness and learn his selfless ways, to move on from the painful past and have a fresh start, to go beyond the worries and anxieties of our daily life and learn to trust more in the divine providence.

Let us allow Christ's Resurrection to work in our lives, that we may be filled with new life:

A new way of seeing things,

A new way of relating with others,

A new way of performing our tasks,

A new way of serving and ministering,

A new way of becoming a church.

The message is clear: We too can be resurrected. Christ shares his Resurrection with us. We too can rise out of those tombs that try to imprison us! Christ rises, and so can we. We too can have new life. We too can make a new start. Because if we have Christ, we always have the power to rise and start something new.

Amen