

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, April 5, 2026
Easter Sunday
Cycle A

There is something unsettling about the gospel narrative we hear today. It does not begin with light, nor with joy...it does not even begin with certainty. It begins in the dark. "On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark..."

Imagine that scene: Mary is walking toward a tomb: carrying grief, confusion, and unanswered questions. She is not expecting a miracle. She is not anticipating resurrection. She is simply going to visit the dead. And yet... it is precisely there – in that darkness – that the Resurrection begins. And that is the first message of Easter: God does His greatest work not when everything is clear and bright –but when everything is still dark.

The Gospel presents a very human and very honest picture. Mary Magdalene does not recognize what is happening at first. She sees the stone rolled away, and her immediate conclusion is not faith – but fear: "They have taken the Lord from the tomb..." Even Peter and the beloved disciple, when they arrive, are confused. They see... but they do not yet fully understand. The Resurrection is already real... but it is not yet fully grasped.

This is important. Because we often think that faith means having everything clear. We think that if God is truly at work, there should be no confusion, no darkness, no struggle. But Easter tells us otherwise: The

Resurrection begins quietly. It begins in the dark... before the light breaks...before understanding comes...before faith becomes firm.

God does not wait for perfect conditions to act. He begins even when we do not yet see...even when we do not yet understand...even when we are still afraid. And this is where Easter becomes very real for us. Because many of us are living in some form of darkness – carrying silent burdens: struggles in relationships and broken connections; grief from loss and wounds that have not yet healed; fears about the future and we cannot control; confusion about decisions and questions about faith.

Perhaps, like Mary Magdalene, we are walking through life not with clarity – but with heaviness in our hearts. We are not yet seeing resurrection. We are only seeing the tomb. But Easter speaks precisely to that situation. It tells us: God is already at work...even if it is still dark. Before Mary recognized the risen Lord – He was already risen. Before the disciples understood –He had already conquered death. Before faith blossomed –grace was already moving.

And the same is true for us. When you are struggling but still choosing to pray...resurrection has already begun. When you are hurting but still choosing to forgive...resurrection has already begun. When you are uncertain but still choosing to trust...resurrection has already begun.

We often wait for light before we believe. But Easter invites us to believe even in the dark. Because the truth is this: the darkness is not the absence of God. It is often the place where God begins His work.

Today, do not wait for everything to be clear before you believe. Do not wait for all your questions to be answered before you trust. Do not wait for the light before you take a step of faith. Because the Risen Lord is already at work – even in the dark places of your life.

Even when it is still dark, God is already bringing new life.