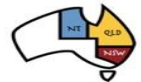


Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ Easter Message 2023

Christ is Risen, Truly He has Risen!!



COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH
+ DIOCESE OF SYDNEY +
& AFFILIATED REGIONS
N S W • Q L D • N T



To the Reverend Fathers, Priests of the Diocese of Sydney, to the Faithful Servants and Deacons at the Altar, to the members of the Board of Trustees, to the members of the Churches Committees of the Diocese of Sydney, and to the blessed congregation in all the Churches of the Diocese. I would like to congratulate you on the Glorious Feast of the Resurrection this year, praying to God through the intercession of the Mother of God, the requests of all the saints, and the prayers of His Holiness, Pope Tawadros II, that God grant us all the blessings of this great feast - the Glorious Feast of Resurrection.

On the Glorious Feast of Resurrection each year, we share together some reflections on some of the verses related to the glorious Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, to console our souls and to live the life of the resurrection every day through the virtue of daily repentance, striving to reach the purity of the heart until we see God.

This year, for the Feast of the Resurrection, the key verse is: ***“Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead.” (Matthew 17: 9)***

As per our teacher St. Paul: ***“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the first fruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming.” (1 Corinthians 15:22-23)***. Thus, this year’s message will focus on ***“The rank of Man after the resurrection from the dead and judgment.”***

1: Through the sin of our first parents - Adam and Eve - all mankind sinned, as mentioned in:

1.1: As our teacher St. Paul said: ***“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned” (Romans 5:12)***

1.2: St. Athanasius the Apostolic said: ***“God then created man and intended that he remain in incorruption. As for humans, when they despised and refused to contemplate God, and invented and plotted evil for themselves, then they deserved the sentence of death that He had previously warned them of, and from that time they did not remain yet in the form on which they were created, but rather they were corrupted as they wanted for themselves, and death reigned over them as a king.”***

2: The resurrection of the Lord Christ is our resurrection as well, so we pray in the Litany of the Gospel, saying: "Because you are He...and the Resurrection of us all."

Our resurrection in Christ, Evangelically, is of three types, of which we mention:

2.1: For one to rise from his doubts about the resurrection of the Lord Christ, for when the two disciples of Emmaus went to the other eleven disciples and told them about the resurrection of the Lord Christ from the dead, the Lord Christ appeared to them and stood in the midst of them, and gave them peace and said to them: **"Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?" (Luke 24:38)**, and he confirmed to them His resurrection from the dead, so they believed in Him.

2.2: For one to rise from the wrong position that he chose by his own will alone, to get up and return to the correct position, as the prodigal son said: **"I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you," (Luke 15:18).**

2.3: For one to rise to the position of service and for the people to repent of sin. At the end of the forty-day fast of Moses, the Chief of Prophets, the Lord gave him the two tablets of stone, the two tablets of the covenant. Then the Lord said to him: **" 'Arise, go down quickly from here, for your people whom you brought out of Egypt have acted corruptly; they have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them; they have made themselves a moulded image.'"** (Deuteronomy 9:11-12).

3: The rank of one who lives the resurrection with repentance, whether on earth or after judgment, can be for the better:

A sinful person can change his rank in the kingdom of heaven if he repents and lives in it throughout his life. We mention three examples:

3.1: The rank of Archdeacon Stephen changed from Archdeacon to the Protomartyr in the early Church: **"They were stoning Stephen while he was calling and saying: "Lord Jesus, receive my soul" (Acts 7:59).**

3.2: The rank of Saul of Tarsus shifted from a difficult persecutor of the Church, witnessing the stoning of Stephen, to our teacher Paul the Apostle, the greatest theologian of Christianity, and finally a martyr on the name of the Lord Christ. The Lord said to Ananias, who baptized Saul of Tarsus: **"Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel." (Acts 9:15).**

3.3: The rank of the simple young Anthony turned into the founder of a new path, the way of monasticism throughout the world, and to this day his monastery attests that he is the great Anthony.

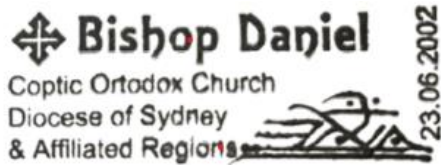
Coptic Orthodox Church – the See of Alexandrian Church – Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated Regions -Pastoral Message of
His Grace Bishop Daniel, Bishop of the Diocese of Sydney, and Affiliated Regions on the occasion of
the Holy Feast of Resurrection 2023

I bow down prostrating to God, supplicating to Him, that He blesses you with His grace, supports you, and with His power guards you, just as we pray for peace in the whole world, and we pray for the safety of our beloved father, His Holiness, Pope Tawadros II, and the peace of the Church in the world.

Ekhrestous Anesty .. Christ is Risen

With Love in Christ,

I ask for the blessing of your prayer in every prayer.



+ Bishop Daniel

By the Grace of God,

Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated Regions