

EASTER SUNDAY HOMILY by Fr. Robin CRM 5th March 2026

Brothers and sisters in Christ, **Happy Easter! Alleluia!**

Today the stone is rolled away, the tomb is empty, and hope—true hope—is alive again.

Let us begin where the Gospel begins—in the darkness of early morning.

1. The Journey from Darkness to Light

John tells us Mary Magdalene went to the tomb “*while it was still dark.*”

Darkness was around her, but more painfully, darkness was **in** her:

The darkness of grief

The darkness of confusion

The darkness of shattered dreams

Jesus, the one who healed her, who restored her dignity, who loved her deeply—
He was gone.

And yet, Mary goes to the tomb.
Not because she expects a miracle,
but because love always moves the heart,
even when hope feels fragile.

Many of us come today with our own darkness:

Fears about our children

Lingering illnesses

A marriage struggling quietly

A family member far from faith

The wounds we hide

The loneliness of missing someone who has passed on

And yet we come—just like Mary.
And that is enough for Easter to begin.
Easter begins with a heart that *still looks for God*, even in the dark.

2. The Empty Tomb: When God Works in Silence

Mary sees the stone rolled away.
She runs. Peter and John run.
John arrives first and peers in.
Peter arrives and goes in.
John enters... and believes. Not because he saw Jesus.

Not because he heard angels.
But because in that quiet, empty tomb
he saw **a sign** of God's work.

Sometimes God comes to us without thunder, without miracles, without fireworks—
just a quiet sign:

- A small comfort in prayer
- A word of encouragement from a friend
- A strength you didn't know you had
- A peace in your heart you can't explain

The stone is rolled away before anyone sees the risen Jesus.
God often moves the stone before we understand what He is doing.

3. God's Plan Is Larger Than Our Pain

In our first reading, Peter proclaims something stunning:
that the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus
was all part of God's saving plan.

Which means:

- Your wounds can become places of grace.
- Your tears can be seeds of new life.
- Your crosses, when carried with Christ, can lead to resurrection.

God does not cause our suffering,
but God never lets suffering have the final word.

Easter assures us that no situation is beyond God's reach.
When we look at our problems, we see dead ends.
When God looks at them, He sees empty tombs waiting to happen.

4. Risen With Christ: Living a New Life

St. Paul says in the second reading:

"Seek what is above."

Not because heaven is far away,
but because heaven is meant to begin in us.

If Christ is risen, then:

Forgiveness must rise in our hearts

Patience must rise

Kindness must rise

Compassion must rise

Courage must rise

Truth must rise

Hope must rise

Easter is not only Jesus' victory.

It is the invitation for *our own resurrection*.

The grudges we hold—bury them.

The anger we carry—roll away the stone.

The fear we live with—let the light in.

This is the season of letting God make us new.

5. We Are Witnesses: The World Needs Easter People

Peter says in the first reading:

"We are witnesses."

Not spectators.

Not observers.

Not people who simply listen and leave.

Witnesses.

The world does not need louder Christians.

It needs **brighter** ones.

It needs people who live Easter with their lives:

Those who forgive when it's hard

Those who serve the poor quietly

Those who stay gentle in a harsh world

Those who choose honesty when it costs something

Those who radiate joy, not fear

Those who bring Christ's peace into their homes

We may be the only Gospel some people will ever read.
Let them read hope in us.

6. What the Empty Tomb Means for You Today

The empty tomb is not just an event in history—
it is God’s personal message to you:

Your failures are not the end.

Your sins are not your identity.

Your suffering is not meaningless.

Your story is not over.

Your loved ones who have died are not gone forever.

Your life is held in God’s hands.

Jesus did not rise only to prove His power.
He rose to prove His *love*—
a love stronger than death,
stronger than your past,
stronger than every fear.

7. A Personal Invitation From the Risen Jesus

Today, Jesus stands before your heart and says:

“Come out of your tomb.”

Whatever tomb you are in—
fear, guilt, hopelessness, loneliness, regret—
He calls you by name, like He called Mary:

“Rise. Begin again. Live again.”

He invites you to trust Him in ways you never have before.
He invites you to let go of what is dead,
and embrace what is truly alive.

Conclusion: Easter Is God’s Promise

My brothers and sisters,
Easter is not simply the memory of an event.
It is the promise of our future.

Because Christ lives,
we too shall live.
Because Christ rose from the dead,
nothing—not even death—can separate us from His love.

Let us walk out of this church today as people of the resurrection—
with hope in our eyes,
peace in our hearts,
and joy in our lives. CHRIST IS RISEN, HE IS TRULY RISEN, ALLELUIA!