



April 5, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we celebrate two aspects of the life of Jesus: his triumph and his death, the second following closely on the first. One lesson of the triumph is how small and deceptive it is, like all earthly glory. His death is the source of all our good, terribly painful but full of meaning.

I've been re-reading the novel *The Plague*, by Albert Camus. It was written in 1947 but it reads like an account of today's news. It treats of an outbreak of fatal illness in a city in Algeria. At first there is little interest, since there are just a few deaths. But the deaths increase, more and more each day until everyone realizes that this is a pandemic, like the one we are going through now.

The main character, a doctor who basically stands for the author, is not a believer and although he is a good and compassionate man, he can find no meaning in the terrible catastrophe. But he is convinced of one thing — a deeply moral sense that whatever happens in life, the ultimate response must be one of common decency. We are all in this together and we owe to one another compassion, generosity and kindness.

As followers of Christ we hold these same truths to be self-evident, as is shown by the many indications of kindness and concern among us. We also act this way because we have the example of Jesus who throughout his life brought healing and love to all he met.

Sadly we cannot celebrate the resurrection of our Lord together and openly in church this year, but the risen Christ is alive in our hearts and we rejoice and console one another with that.

Fr. Basil