



Bishop Gary Gordon

EASTER MESSAGE APRIL 2017



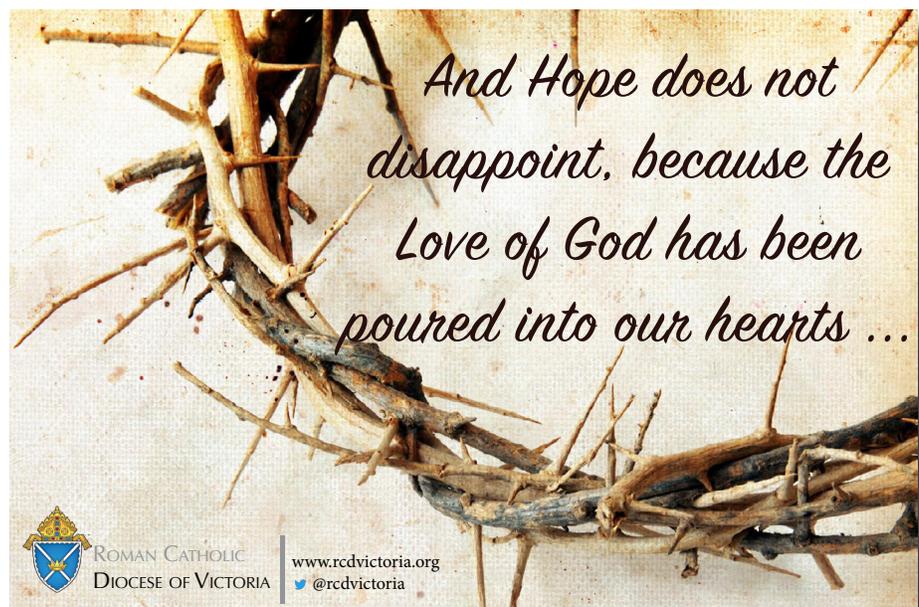
In this beautiful springtime of our Church, which is the Easter season, we are invited to be renewed in hope. This hope is that Jesus Christ, who has given his life for us on the cross, has destroyed sin and death and has given each and every one of us the cause of hope. He is alive; he is risen.

At Easter we are invited to a vibrancy of hope, not only in the blooms coming out—the rhododendrons, the flowers, the grass is green, all of these are signs of hope—but the real hope for us as a Church is that Jesus' resurrection, for you and for me, is a vibrant invitation to *go out*, to reach out with a message of pure joy for people who are suffering, for people who are wounded and hurt. Indeed, we know that where there is great darkness, there is a call for great light. And Christ is the light!

Brothers and sisters, in this Easter season, I invite you to search out those many places in our Diocese where there is need for the light of Christ; for his risen grace, his powerful love, his tender mercy. This is a time to connect with people, to encounter so many who are in need on the margins, [to reach out to] our urban areas and our geographical margins.

One of the great gifts of Jesus' resurrection from the dead is that it has, from the very beginning, impelled our Church to a missionary dynamism, to a reaching out, to going beyond our own borders, to going to the margins, to encountering people where there is need for light, love, peace and tender mercy.

God bless you this Easter season, and may you have the joy of vibrant hope in your own lives.



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