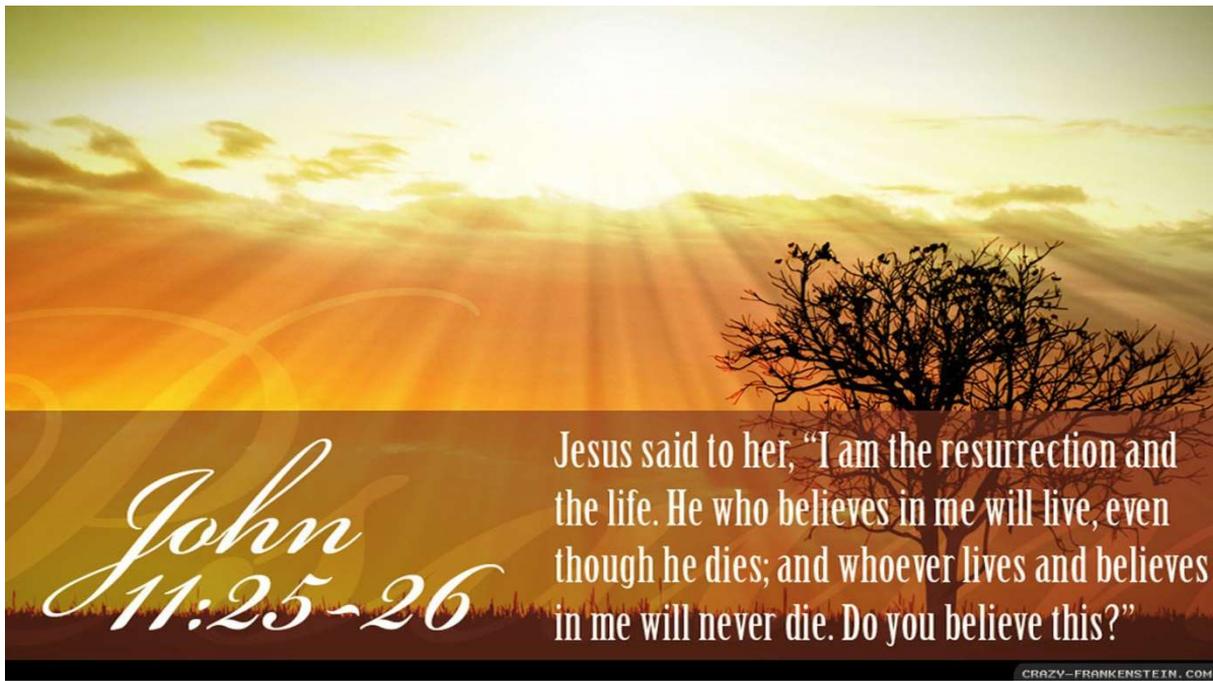


## *The Easter Vigil, Easter Saturday April, 11<sup>th</sup> 2020*



On Holy Saturday night we gather to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. We light our Paschal or Easter Fire a reminder that Jesus is the light of the world. From that fire a new Paschal or Easter Candle is lit, placed in a special candlestick and put where we can all see it, usually near the altar or ambo. The Paschal Candle will be lit at every Mass during the Easter Season. It is also lit during baptisms and funerals throughout the year.

The vigil is divided into four parts:

- 1) Service of Light** The atmosphere in the church is different: the holy water fonts are drained, all the lights are out, the tabernacle is empty. A new fire is lit and blessed. The priest prepares the Paschal Candle, lights it from the blessed fire and then processes through the Church singing:

Priest: Lumen Christi

Response: Deo gracias

Everyone in the congregation lights their own candle from the light of the Paschal Candle. This part of the ceremony is completed by the Priest singing/saying the Exsultet.

- 2) The Liturgy of the Word.** These readings help us meditate on the wonderful works of God for his people since the beginning of time. There are eight readings-six from the Old Testament and two from the New Testament. The readings are:

**Genesis** 1:1-2; 2-The story of creation.

**Genesis** 22:1-18-Abraham and Isaac.

**Exodus** 14:15–15:1-Crossing of the Red Sea.

**Isaiah** 54:5-14-My love will never leave you.

**Isaiah** 55:1-11-Come to the water.

**Ezekiel** 36:16-17.18-28-You shall be my people.

**Romans** 6:3-11-Having died with Christ, we shall return to life with Him.

**Gospel** Mark 16:1-7 He has risen, he is not here.

Each Reading is followed by a Responsorial Psalm and prayer.

- 3) Liturgy of Baptism.** During this liturgy the Easter water is blessed, the Litany of the Saints is recited, the Baptismal Water is blessed with the priest lowering the Paschal Candle into the water three times. Afterwards the faithful are blessed with the Easter water and all renew their baptismal promises holding their lighted candles again.
- 4) Liturgy of Eucharist.** So the Mass resumes, with special prayers inserted during the Eucharist Prayer. The whole church is called to join at the sacrificial table that Christ prepared for us through his death and resurrection.

### **Hymns.**

Alleluia, Alleluia, let the holy anthem rise

This is the Easter Story

These can be found on You Tube.

### **Easter Vigil Mass on Television**

22.00-23.00 *Easter Vigil Mass.* Bishop Tom Deenihan of Meath celebrates the resurrection of Christ, with a vigil Mass in the Cathedral of Christ the King. Beginning with the lighting of the Paschal candle, the liturgy, which signifies the triumph of light over darkness and of life over death (RTÉ Two & RTÉ Radio 1 Extra/LW252).

### **Shine a Light.**

The Government has announced an initiative for Saturday 11th April, asking everyone to shine a light for all the sick, frontline workers and anyone affected by Covid-19. This is very appropriate as tonight in the Easter Vigil Mass we celebrate that

Christ is the Light of the World

### **Prayer for Protection.**

#### ***Extract from Saint Patrick's Breastplate***

Christ with me,  
Christ before me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ in me,  
Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ on my right,  
Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down,  
Christ when I sit down,  
Christ when I arise,  
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.