Is death the end or the beginning?

Along our roads we often see 'memorials' to some loved one who has died. These memorials help us deal with the grief and demonstrate that in 'some way or another' the loved one lives on.

One of the few absolute certainties in life is death!!!

It is one thing that we have in common as human beings. Having said that, it is one of the things we least prepare for.

We look forward to going to school; we look forward to leaving school; we look forward to getting a job or studying and then getting a job; we look forward to finishing work and retiring; then we think we will live forever.....we certainly don't look forward to dying, and yet that is the only real certainty!!!!

Whether we want to think about death or refuse to consider it, makes absolutely no difference to the fact.....it will happen.

What then?

Whilst it is an unknown experience for us, we do have a clue if we understand the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Jesus, who is both God and human, was born, lived and died in our world which we understand. He was crucified and died on the cross, and this too we understand.

However three days later this 'dead man' is alive again and meeting with his friends, but in a completely new form. Shortly after this confronting meeting Jesus returns to heaven, promising that we are welcome to join him there in eternity.

It is reassuring to hear Jesus say, "I am going now to prepare a place for you and after I have gone and prepared a place for you, I shall return to take you with me, so that where I am, you may be too." [John 14, 2-3]

Death, whilst it is the end of life here on earth, is really the doorway to eternity.

Now that is something we can look forward to.

May this Easter be special for you.

+Eugene Hurley

Bishop of Darwin