

EASTER MESSAGE 2017

I'VE been thinking what life would be like without Easter.

You might say it would mean one less holiday and not much more.

In fact, despite the odd escapist pleasure, life would be one long and dark Calvary.

That's the kind of living death many people know, a life without Easter.

In the end, that's the definition of paganism – keeping in mind that pagans aren't bad people, just people who find real hope and hence real life difficult or impossible.

As St Paul says of us Christians, we are the most pathetic people of all if Jesus isn't risen from the dead.

But once he does rise and once we believe he rises, then everything changes – not suddenly or magically but slowly and deep down where the victory of Easter is unstoppable.

We have the peace of those who know how the story ends.

On the way to that ending, there are and will be agonies of every kind, as we see daily around the world, and less frequently perhaps in our own life.

But the agony of Calvary will give way to the joy of Easter.

All the blood and tears of the world, gathered up in the Cross, will give birth to the songs of joy which are unique to Easter, music that reaches beyond all our disappointment, disillusionment and depression.

The world without Easter would be a tomb. The world with Easter is a womb teeming with a life bigger than death. Happy Easter.

+ Mark Coleridge