



Easter 2017

A Message from Bishop Michael McKenna

We Celebrate Easter Every Sunday

Every Sunday is a celebration of Easter. From the earliest days of the Church, Christians have gathered each week to celebrate the day when Jesus rose from the dead and what this means for us.

The first Christians were Jews, who continued to observe the Sabbath, the last day of the week on which "God rested" and called his people to rest from daily cares. But they began a new observance as well: rejoicing on the first day of the week, the first day of the new covenant, when the Son of God triumphed over death to lead all who follow him to the fullness of life. We follow the only one who knows the way out of death.

When Christians gather in his name, the Risen Lord is truly present. Our participation is a gift to one another, making this miracle possible. When we listen to the Word of God together, Jesus is present in another, special way, nourishing our faith and guiding our journey to God. And when we have the great gift of a priest to lead us in the Eucharist, we experience in a unique way the dying and rising of Christ. We can eat his Body and drink his Blood and, in that communion with him and one another, become one Body: his Church.

The annual celebration of Easter is the high point of the Church's liturgical year. It is a time of joy and beauty and bigger crowds in churches. I pray that all those who come will have their hearts touched and their faith renewed. And I pray that many will find in this moment the wisdom and courage to reassess their weekly priorities and decide to join in the celebration of Easter every Sunday.

"Christ has risen from the dead and appeared to Simon Peter! Yes, he is truly risen! Alleluia!"

+Michael McKenna
Bishop of Bathurst