



Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador

Easter 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Christ brings hope to a broken world! In teaching the wayward, in healing the sick, in casting out unclean spirits and in forgiving sins, Jesus reveals the face of the Father as both merciful and patient, drawing humanity from sin, and its effects, to a life open to the promptings and gifts of the Holy Spirit. By uniting himself fully to the sufferings of the world, and the death that ensues, Christ enters the depths of our distress and is the answer to all our prayers. In the words of the Psalmist: "I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." (Psalm 121: 1-2 (NRSV)).

Christians are called to be light to the world, to share the hope we have in Christ to all who dwell in darkness, not just by word, but in deeds. By carrying on the mission of Christ by teaching, healing, forgiveness and wholly giving ourselves to a life of charity, we give voice to our faith and our joy. By taking on the sufferings of others by our presence, concern and generosity, we proclaim that the cross he bore for others, in which we share, is redemptive and brings hope to a broken world.

Take courage, therefore, take heart and do not be dismayed. Let us renew our baptismal promises, the new covenant God has made with us in his blood, and resolve to be instruments of Christ's peace in the world. As we receive from him, from his body and blood offered for us and our salvation, let us also give. With Mary Magdalene as our model, let us not linger in our sin or distress, but may we respond to his voice as he calls out our name. Though the world is broken, and our lives are far from perfect, let us not give way to fear and trembling, but proclaim his resurrection, his mercy and his steadfast love.

Christ is risen! Let us rejoice!

Fraternally in Christ,

† *Bart van Roijen*

Bishop Bart van Roijen

Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador

