

УКРАЇНСЬКА
КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЄПАРХІЯ
ПРЕСВЯТОЇ РОДИНИ
В ЛОНДОНІ



HOLY FAMILY
UKRAINIAN
CATHOLIC EPARCHY
OF LONDON

**Easter Pastoral Letter
of the Hierarchs of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church
in Western Europe**

**Reverend Fathers,
Venerable Brothers and Sisters,
Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ!**

Christ is Risen!

The Carthusian monks have a motto written above the doorways of their monasteries, which depicts a globe, and on the top stands a cross with the inscription: "Stat crux dum volvitur orbis" (The Cross stands while the world is spinning). This year, our planet is spinning with the pandemic of the coronavirus and frightening nations. However, the cross stands in the same place and points to the One who suffered on it, who showed the way to change the world.

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son to show us the way to overcoming suffering and death. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (cf. Jn 1:29), along with its consequences. Christ accepted human suffering: physical, psychological, moral, spiritual, drank the bitter cup of the sins of the world, its sufferings and death, he shed the last drops of his blood on the cross.

The Lord did not come to punish the world, but to save it! Instead, the punishment fell on Christ Himself, so He shows us the way out, the way to life and resurrection. "For when you were baptised, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ" (Cl 2:12). When we suffer with Christ, then we are in solidarity with Him; taking part in his passion, we also share in his resurrection.

With the whole world, we are experiencing a coronavirus pandemic. The gospel teaches that Jesus, with whom we have been baptized, shows us the way out of crisis. First of all, it is the trust that God is with us and He will not abandon us. It is the encouragement to pray, to meditate, to read the word of God, a sincere repentance for our sins, our conversion, care for others. This is the path that leads to the resurrection through the cross.

The Paschal Matins solemnly praises the victory of Christ and invites us to take part in it: "Come, let us partake of a new drink, not miraculously produced from the barren rock, but from the Fountain of immortality, springing up from the tomb of Christ."

Although we cannot attend parish worship in our churches this year, we can still sing with full lungs: "It is the day of Resurrection! Let us be enlightened by this Feast, and let us embrace one another and say, Brothers!" We are cautioned not to hug each other, not to go out in the open to bless our Pascha. However, no one can forbid us to open our hearts for the resurrected Christ to come in and say: Peace be to you! Rejoice! Sing the song of victory!

We thank and bless the doctors and health care professionals who, with extraordinary dedication, take care of those infected by the virus, even at the risk of their own lives. We thank and bless the civil servants who maintain public order during this difficult time of quarantine.

We join together with those who are left far from their relatives, with students who are unable to return home, with all those who care for the sick and are left alone.

We sympathize with the sick in hospitals and in their homes. We encourage you to share your suffering with Jesus in order to be part of His victory.

We grieve with those who have lost their loved ones, but we share with you the hope of the resurrection, singing: "Although you descended into the grave, O Immortal One, and ...you rose again as a victor, O Christ God, ... you gave resurrection to the fallen». We pray for all who have gone to the Lord, praying for their eternal rest where the light of God's face shines.

At this difficult time, let us sing with a new understanding: "Christ is risen from the dead! By death He conquered death, and to those in the graves He granted life!"

We greet and bless you all on the Resurrection of Christ! May this Easter be the announcement of the birth of a new world, of true values, of true Christian life.

"Let the whole universe celebrate Christ's resurrection" because this is "the day that the Lord has made."

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Given in Munich, Paris, London, Rome, Kyiv
on 7th April 2020 on the Feast of the Annunciation.

+ PETRO (Kryk)

Apostolic Exarch for Ukrainians in Germany and Scandinavia

+ HLIB (Lonchyna)

*Apostolic Administrator of the Eparchy of St Volodymyr in Paris
Apostolic Delegate in Switzerland and Benelux Countries*

+ KENNETH (Nowakowski)

Bishop of the Eparchy of the Holy Family in London

+ DIONESIUS (Lachowycz)

Delegate with full jurisdiction of the Apostolic Exarch in Italy

+ STEPAN (SUS)

Head of the Pastoral Missions department of the Patriarchal Curia