

## **EASTER VIGIL**

**Fr Callistus Khathali - HOMILY : HOLY SATURDAY 16 April 2022**

***This is the night that even now, throughout the world, sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices and from the gloom of sin, leading them to grace and joining them to his holy ones.***

***(From the Easter Proclamation - The Exsultet)***

The beginning of tonight's liturgy sets the tone for what the Church celebrates on this night. The new paschal candle for this year, and to be used until next year's Holy Saturday is brought into the dark church building. This is the light of the Risen Christ dispelling the darkness of death, of sin and of suffering. This is the night when we are given the new lease of life by being set free from sin and joined into the ranks of the holy ones. It is indeed the night that brings to light our final destination when sin and death will be eternally destroyed.

The Lord is indeed making things new by his victory over death. Something new is brought to this world. Our response to the responsorial psalm is about the renewal of the face of the earth. The nine readings of this liturgy call us to reflect on the goodness of what the Lord created, the example of the faith of Abraham our Father in faith, and how God throughout history, took it upon himself to renew and set free his people ravaged by bondage (in Egypt), and by sin as caused by their failure to keep the covenant. God remained faithful throughout, and he still remains faithful even on this night.

Reflecting on the Lord making things new we are called to look at what needs to be renewed in us and in our world. My prayer is that this night marks the beginning of the post covid era. We all know how the pandemic has ravaged the whole world. We pray that this night is the beginning of the end of all wars, divisions, poverty hunger etc. Let this night be the beginning of every form of pain and suffering caused by natural disasters and human failure.

The tomb where the dead body of the Lord was laid is empty; the huge stone covering it is removed. Let these signs speak to us as we look back at the bitter and painful past towards the future that brings hope. The Lord who was captured, overpowered, killed, and buried is not in his tomb. We are not to look for him there since he is out of the darkness of the tomb, and is in the light of the living. He takes us with him to be among the living! We are no longer in darkness, but in the light of the Risen Lord.

**Fr Callistus Khathali**