

**Easter Message
from
Bishop William Crean**

A Cháirde, dear friends in Christ,

“A time of testing” is the best way of representing the experience of the whole of society. None of us are untouched by the threat of the deadly invisible virus that lurks among us. We are naturally fearful and on our guard.

The extraordinary level of co-operation and generosity of so many in the face of this threat is truly inspirational. It lifts our hearts to witness such kindness and concern for the most vulnerable. The fruits of the Holy Spirit are evident all ‘round us and we are grateful beyond words.

Holy Week has been marked. We have recalled the Passion of Jesus who, though innocent, loved unto death for our sake. He, through his saving death sowed the seed of life so that henceforth our lives are “rich in immortality” (Preface of Mass for the Dead).

Tried and tested we may be but we are an Easter people. In the Risen Jesus, the Christ, the Anointed One of God, the light of hope burns brightly for us. It lifts our hearts and lights our way so that we can see clearly “the hope that His call holds for us” (Eph. 1:18).

My friends, hold steadfast to the Lord in prayer and in life. May our sense of solidarity and mutual support in these testing times be a source of encouragement and resilience.

As a symbol of that light of hope that is ours as disciples, I invite you to light an Easter Candle when you gather to share your table for food and for prayer. Invite the children to light that Easter Candle as we seek to pass on to a new generation the torch of Easter Light.

Wishing you the blessings of Easter Joy and Peace.