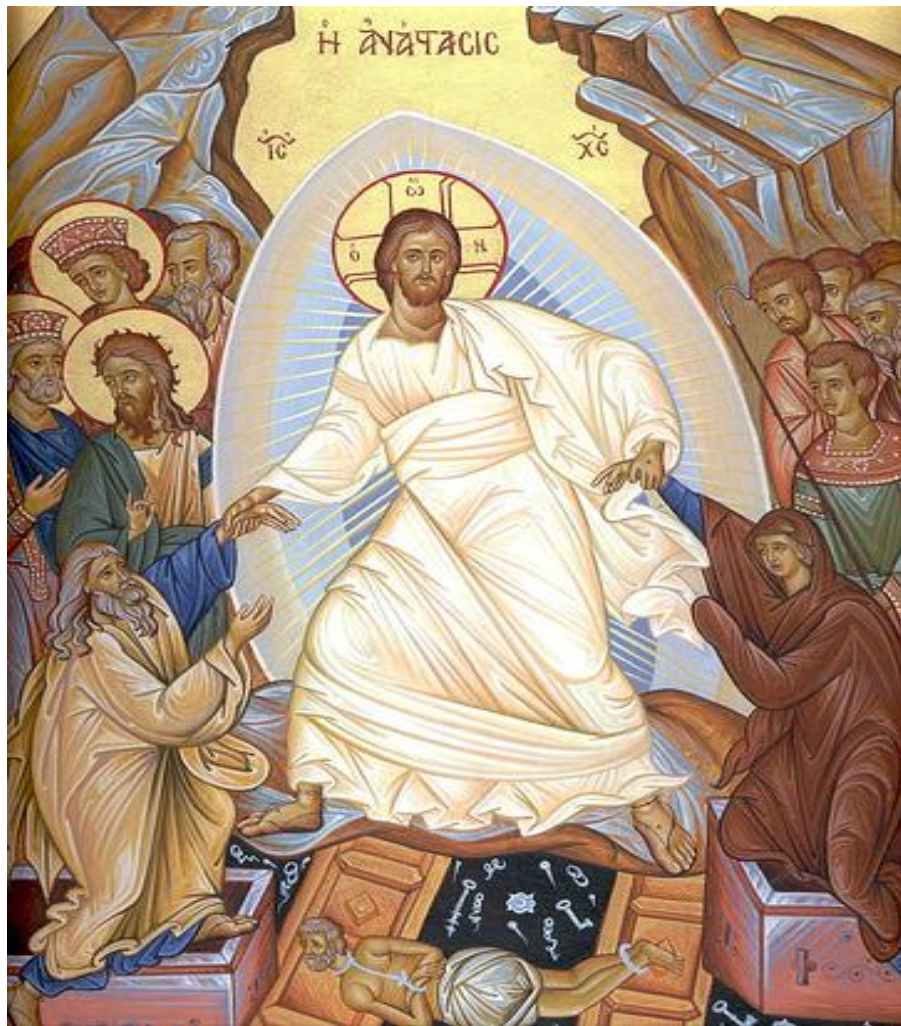


# CATHOLIC CHURCH OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

## EASTER ACT OF CONSECRATION



*The Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.*



Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the most important Christian festival, and the one celebrated with the greatest joy. Without Easter there would be no Christianity. Without Jesus' suffering, his execution and subsequent resurrection there would be no Christianity, for however terrible the suffering was, it was part of God's plan for the salvation of humankind.

In Western Christianity, Easter marks the end of Lent, a period of fasting and penitence in preparation for Easter, which begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts forty days (not counting Sundays).

## EASTER ACT OF CONSECRATION

**Father John:** Let us commend ourselves and all people to the love and protection of the Mother of God.

**All: Holy Mother of God, Mary ever Virgin, intercede for us with the Lord our God.**

**Father John:** God who is mighty has done great things for us.

**All: And holy is God's name.**

*We pray 5 decades of the Rosary – The Glorious Mysteries*

**Father John:** Let us pray:

Dear Mary our Patron,

On this, the Lord's Day,  
We celebrate with joy the fulfilment of the miracle  
God began in your womb.  
He became what we are  
So that we might become what he is.  
He is Risen, the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
He reigns as Lord and God forever.  
In your marvelling at the great things the Mighty One worked in you,  
We find our own awe at being chosen sons (and daughters) of God,  
Of being empowered to become a nation of saints,  
Of being commissioned to bear Christ to the world.  
With you as our companion and model,  
May God bring this good work to completion  
And may our dedication to you of all that we have and are  
Bring us to share in your blessedness.

**Amen.**

*Together we pray:*

**God has worked a great wonder: Jesus is risen!  
No longer are we caught in the cords of death,  
For he has loosened our bonds.  
No longer need we walk in fear,  
For he has become our strong hope.  
No longer are we alone and estranged,  
For he has called us friends.  
May your faith in the face of death—even death on the cross,  
May your hope—almost buried with him in the tomb,  
May your love—nearly staunch by the fear of his disciples,  
May your joy in the Resurrected Saviour be ours this day,  
As we, in your name for your honour, live out our Easter mission  
To go forth and teach all peoples.**

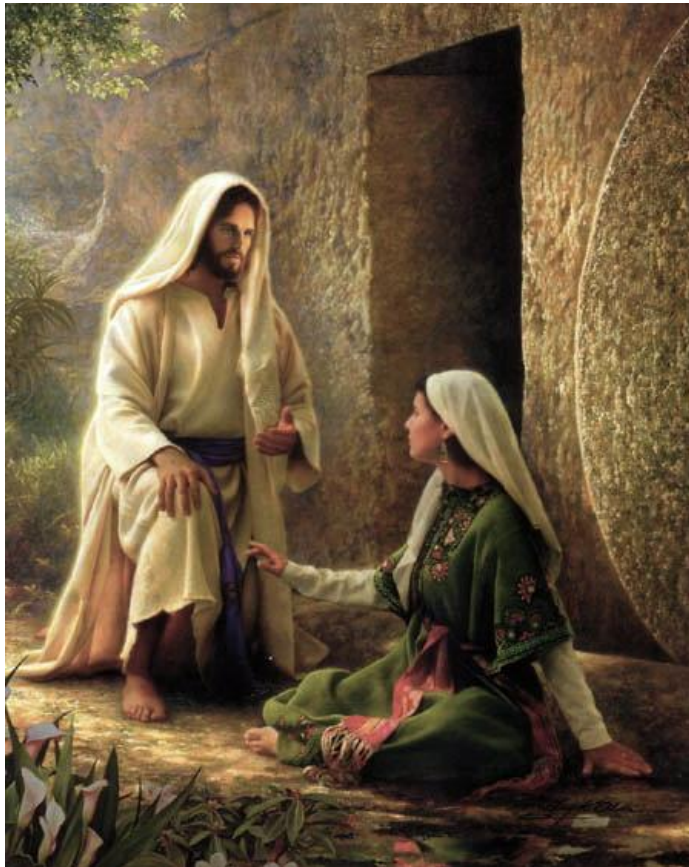
**Dear Mary, our Mother,  
We, your sons and daughters  
Look to you as we treasure and ponder  
The Rising of Jesus—your Son and our brother.  
Teach us how that marvellous moment can topple the proud,  
Elevate the lowly, feed the hungry,  
And mission the rich—even today.  
Confident in God's power and love,  
Trusting in the Risen Lord,  
Relying on the Promised Advocate,  
The Spirit of Life and of Truth,  
We dedicate our lives, in your name and for your honour  
To the transforming power of Easter.**

**In the brilliant light of Easter,  
Teach us, too, that nothing is impossible with God.  
All our struggles with self and others,  
All our disappointments and shames,  
All our failures and sinfulness**



**Are as nothing in this healing, life-giving light.  
Accept, then, our all.  
May God look upon it,  
As once did the Mighty One upon our lowliness,  
So that we might be gifted with that blessedness  
Promised to all sons and daughters of the Resurrection.**

**Amen.**



**Father John:**

Dear Mary,  
We sing our Alleluias today, for Jesus is risen.  
Our souls proclaim the greatness of God,  
Our spirits rejoice in our Risen Saviour.  
May your song be sung in our lives  
At every moment of this day so that God's power,  
Which can do far more than we can ask or imagine,  
May continue to call life from death and light from darkness,

Transforming our meagre efforts  
Into your Son's victory over death.

**Amen.**

*Together we pray:*

**The cross of death has become the Tree of Life, and we rejoice.  
God has sent forth the Spirit,  
And the world quickens to life anew.  
Jesus is risen!  
Teach us no more to fear the sword of division and death;  
Teach us to welcome Jesus, the sign of contradiction,  
And to lay bare the thoughts of our hearts  
To the healing light of Easter.  
Then, in your name and for your honour,  
We will live in the Paschal Mystery  
Today and, with you, see it fulfilled  
On the day of Resurrection.**

**Father John:**

Dear Mary,

We ask for your powerful presence this day,  
Just as you shared it  
With the frightened disciples in the Upper Room.  
Teach us, as you did them, to rely upon God's promises,  
Upon our brother and Lord, Jesus, and  
Upon the Advocate and Comforter,  
The Spirit of Life and Love and Truth.  
May we live as you did, in strong hope and invincible confidence.  
And be transformed by the power of the Resurrection  
Into true hearers and doers of God's will.

**Amen**



The images and concepts of Eastertide often seem more difficult for us to grasp than those of Lent. Christ's victory over death can elude us, while the stark horror of the cross demands attention. Ashes as Lent begins, fasting during Lent and the disaster of Good Friday we can cope with, yet what resurrection offers can seem nebulous. Likewise glorification, ascension into heaven and eternal life. These are difficult ideas.

The Church often refers to what we do in the mass as the "*mysteries*". Before the Eucharistic prayer, we pray today that we will always find "delight in these

Paschal and Easter mysteries”; “so that the renewal constantly at work within us may be the cause of unending joy”. That phrase “renewal constantly at work within us” refers to what the word of God has done within us in the scripture readings and to what the Holy Spirit of Jesus is doing within us during the Eucharistic prayer and Holy Communion – a work which continues after we leave the church.

A most important part of the mass comes when, after the words of consecration, the priest announces “the *mystery* of faith”. Your response signifies that you believe what the words of consecration signify (“this is my body” and “this is my blood”). The mystery of faith and the *mysteries* of our faith (the sacraments) are not puzzles to be solved. They express what we believe; what we hold to be true; what we live by.

In this time of resurrection Saint John’s gospel offers us images which are simple to understand and which deepen our faith. “I am the *bread* of life”: bread that strengthens our faith. “I am the *light* of the world”: we will not stumble in the dark; we will find the way to eternal life. “I am the *gate* of the sheepfold”: if you enter through the *gate*, through Christ, the door of mercy, you will be safe. “I am the *good shepherd*”: “I know (love) my own and my own know me”. The *good shepherd* does everything for our good; even giving his life that we might have life; to the full, eternal life; and that we might offer this life to others.

