

## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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## DIOCESE OF GRAND FALLS

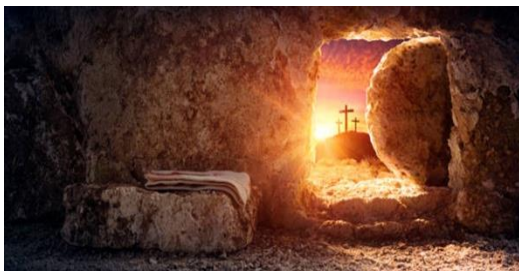
### Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection – 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We sometimes forget that the mindset of those who witnessed the death of Jesus was that they would never again see him alive. Though Jesus tried to tell them that 'after three days he would rise again', the concept of 'resurrection from the dead' was nearly impossible for them to grasp. When we understand this, the grief of Peter, the grief of Mary the mother of Jesus, and the grief of the women who accompanied Jesus becomes even more overwhelming.



Peter's last encounter with Jesus was marked by Peter's denial that he even knew Jesus. How desperately Peter must have hoped for an opportunity to tell Jesus how sorry he was and how much he really loved him. For Mary, the mother of Jesus, the loss of her son must have been devastating. She was entrusted by God with the great grace of raising Jesus, of watching over him, and of loving him always. But in the end, she could not save her son from this scornful death. And for the women who accompanied Jesus, the loss of their dearest friend must have hurt them deeply. Jesus had touched the lives of each of these women and led each of them to abandon a life of sin and embrace a life of goodness. Now, all they could do for the one who saved them was prepare his body in death.



Are we able to put ourselves into shoes of these people? Can we make their grief our own? Can we imagine their sorrow and their loss?

When we accompany them in their grief, we can also accompany them into the joy each of them must have experienced when they met Jesus risen and alive. We

can share with Peter the joy of experiencing reunion and reconciliation with Jesus. We can share with Mary, the moment of her first embrace with her risen son and discovering that death can never overcome love. And we can share with the women who accompanied Jesus a new certainty that a life lived according to the Good News of Jesus will always bring true joy and eternal happiness.

I offer you my prayer that as you celebrate the death and Resurrection of Jesus, you will experience reconciliation, love, and true joy. Happy Easter to each of you and to your family and friends.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross symbol and followed by the name "R. Anthony Daniels" in a cursive script.

Most Reverend R. Anthony Daniels  
Bishop of Grand Falls