

Message from

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‘CHRIST IS OUR HOPE’

When the light of Hope diminishes and human life becomes burdensome to so many in our country, due to political rivalries, economic inflation, social disharmony and spiritual lethargy, Christ becomes the beacon of hope.

The innocent cries of oppression and deprivation due to widowhood numbering 90,000 in the Northern and Eastern parts of our country, orphaned, abandoned and less fortunate children numbering 200,000, continuous natural and manmade calamities, deterioration of human values and psychological scars need to be addressed. Jesus, too, was the hope of the hopeless in leading the people of Israel amidst chaos and helplessness.

The testimony of John 5:1-8 healing the man at the pool of Bethesda who was lying over there for 38 years waiting for a liberator to raise him and put him when the pool is stirred. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." At once, the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

Christ is the only hope for new life when Martha and Mary wept over the death of Lazarus and told Him, "If you were here our brother wouldn't have been dead" and, in response, to raise Lazarus from death. He manifested His glory at the tomb of Lazarus, when "he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth". And he that was dead came forth." Someone has said that had He not on that occasion cried, "Lazarus, come forth", all that were in the tombs would have come forth. In John 5: 28, 29, we read that "all that are in the graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth.

Christ becomes Hope and New Life for the sinners when He forgave them saying “Your sins are forgiven...sin no more”. We see in the life of sinners, when He said to the adulterous woman “Neither I condemn you”, and to Zacheus “Today salvation has come to your house” and to all "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, I will give you rest”.

Christ, at this late hour in the witness of His own in the world which crucified Him, would call our attention to the truth of His coming again. This is the Christian Hope. Believers have an appointed witness, a responsible life, but they are destined for glory. God has chosen them to "obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory" (2 Timothy 2: 10). Christ has "died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him". (1 Thessalonians 5: 10). This is our prospect, not only to go to heaven, not only to reign with Him in His Kingdom, but to "live together with Him."

As Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed, Jesus Christ is our Hope. Jesus is our Hope, and the only Hope we need. Jesus is our Hope of finding God the Father, because no one comes to the Father except through Him (Jn 14:6).

So many people are "without hope and without God in the world" (Eph 2:12). They need Jesus who is Hope incarnate. As Pope Benedict proclaimed to a hopeless world, 'Jesus is our Hope'.

The Lenten Theme ‘Christ is our Hope’ inspires all Christians to discover the joy of Jesus as we live in faith and walk in hope and to be Hope and Life to others.

"Where there's despair in life, let me bring Hope."