

Easter Sunday - April 20, 2025
Homily by Bp. Romie- Jun Peñalosa

Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed!
Alleluia!
Praise God.
You see,
when someone who believes in Christ
says that,
yung tao
na naniniwala din na buhay
si Kristo, yan din
ang sagot. When you say
Christ is risen,
a proclamation,
the person who believes
in Jesus,
the person who walks with
Jesus, etong sinasabi
niya, truly
He is risen.
Ibig sabihin, hindi lang yan
sinasabi sa Bible.
Hindi lang yan pinoproclaim
ng simbahan. Ako mismo,
truly
He is risen.
So this is very important
that we answer
this. Itong week na to,
itong season of Easter,
when the priest or anyone will say
Christ is risen, we always respond
truly He is risen.
He is risen
indeed, pareho lang yan.
Sinasabi yan sa Bible,
sinasabi ng simbahan yan,
pero ako mismo,
indeed, in my own
life, I know Christ is
risen. There are
two stories
regarding the resurrection of
Christ. Yung
kwento ng mga
Kristiyano, the story
of
Christ's disciples
and the story of the
Pharisees, dalawang kwento
yan. On
that Easter
day,
there was
a story
among the Christians,
and this is what we've read in the
Gospel today.
Very early in the morning,
the women, yung mga
babae,
they came to the tomb

of Jesus because alam
nila nung Good Friday,
hinabol na lang nila
yung body, kasi
palubog na yung araw, and the
Sabbath will start already.
And they cannot
prepare the body. The Jews
are very particular
pagdating dun sa mga
burial sa libing,
kagaya din ang mga Pilipino,
tayo, marami talaga tayong
pamahiin tungkol sa paglibing,
sa paglalamay,
and the Jews as well.
But one of the things na
makita natin sa mga Jews, they really
prepare the body.
Hinahanda talaga nila
yung katawan ng namatay
for burial.
It gives us a message,
why would you take care
of the body
if it is going
to remain in death?
Kung hindi na babangon yung katawan na yan,
bakit pa natin pinaghahandaan
yan?
So yan, question yan, no?
Bakit? Because behind
that tradition,
behind that is the belief
and the hope
that the body will rise again.
So,
that Good Friday,
bago mag 6 o'clock ng
Good Friday,
pag nag 6 o'clock sa mga
Hudyo, nagumpisa na yung
Sabbath, Sabado na yan,
6 o'clock ng Friday.
So Christ was crucified
at 12 noon,
He died around 3pm,
and after 3pm,
and that
and that
was
to prepare
it for burial.
So, dali-dali lang.
It was not,
sabi nila, hindi nga fully
prepared yung body.
Pero,
Nicodemus
and Joseph of Arimathea,
hinanda nila
yung katawan ni Jesus for burial.
Kaya umabot talaga siya.
Just before 6pm

Friday,
napasok yung katawan niya
in burial.
He was buried in a tomb which has a very
big stone to seal it.
No person
can open it. It will take
10 people to roll the stone
away.
So, very early,
nung Sunday morning,
when I say early,
that will be probably
Saturday evening.
Okay?
Because yung counting ng mga Jews
ng araw, nag-uumpisa sila sa gabi.
They don't count the days starting
in the morning. They start at night.
So, the women
went there very early.
For what
purpose? To prepare
His body.
To continue to prepare His body.
To give it a proper
cleansing for burial.
But the
women,
naka-mention yung pangalan ni
Joanna,
Mary Magdalene,
and some other women,
ang iniisip ko
nga bakit wala yung mga lalaki
yung mga babae lang.
So, they were the ones who were there.
So, when they went there,
pagdating nila dun,
the stone of the grave was
already rolled away.
Nawala na.
And they entered the tomb,
and they found
the linen cloth there, but there
was no body of
Jesus.
And so, the women were perplexed.
Nagulat sila,
bakit ganyan lang nangyari?
And so, they ran to
the apostles. They ran
to the apostles who were hiding
at the time, and they told them their story.
At very clear
sa Bible ang sabi dun,
and they did not believe.
Bakit?
Minsan ganyan eh.
Hindi tayo naniniwala,
lalo na pag babae ang nagkikwento.
No?
They don't believe.
But the apostles,

eto lang maganda, even though
they did not believe,
they got curious.
And probably that's the purpose
bakit yung mga babae
ang unang pumunta,
at nakita nila wala na yung katawa
ni Jesus, they came back, and even
though no one believed them,
but it made the
men curious.
And so, Peter
and some of the apostles
ran to the tomb.
Tumakbuk agad sila
at pumunta sila dun.
Then when they got into the tomb,
they saw
that the body of Jesus
was not there anymore.
Wala na.
And so, it confirmed
what the women said
to them.
True enough, the body of
Christ was not already there.
Then, sabi sa
scriptures, then they
remembered!
Naalala nila
yung mga sinasabi ni Jesus
sa kanila. You notice when Christ
was still walking with them,
Jesus will always tell them,
the Son of Man will be
crucified,
He will die, and on the
third day, He will rise again.
But while Christ was
walking with them and telling the story,
they did not understand.
Hindi nila maintindihan
kung anong ibig sabihin nun.
They could not understand.
May mga pangyayari
sa buhay natin na hindi natin
maintindihan until
the day something happens
to us. Then we will understand.
So, every time Christ will
tell them that, I am going to be
crucified, I will die, I will
suffer, but I will rise
again, they did not understand.
So, on that Easter morning,
when they came to the tomb
and saw, nakita nila
wala na yung bangkay
ng Panginoon dun sa tomb,
then they remembered.
Naalaala nila lahat
ng sinabi ni Christo sa kanila.
And it confirmed
the Word.

He died,
they saw Him die
on the cross.
They know
that He was buried in that tomb.
But when they
got there, the body is no more.
Papano yan?
Then they remembered
what the Lord said to them.
That's why
we commemorate
every Sunday, hindi lang Easter
Sunday, but every Sunday we come to
church. So, we will
not forget, but we'll continue
to remember
that Christ
is risen.
That is
the story
of the Christians.
Ito naman ang kwento ng mga
farisees.
Nung nilibing
si Jesus ng gabi,
yes, they
did not deny that Jesus
died on the cross,
and they know that
His disciples
brought Him to the tomb
at sinarado yung tomb.
Nakita ng mga farisees yan.
Nag-request pa sila
ng gwardya.
Pagwardyahan yung tomb.
Kasi baka nakawin
yung katawan niya.
Pag ninakaw yan, at wala
na yan kinabukasan,
baka kung ano-anong kwento na
naman ang ikwento ng mga
disciples. So,
pinagwardyahan yun.
And this is what the farisees
told the people.
Nung wala na yung
katawan ni Cristo doon sa libingan
niya,
then the farisees spread the
story, nagkalat din sila ng kwento.
Pero ang kwento na
kinalat nila, hindi galing sa mga
babae, galing sa mga lalaki.
Kaya
kapaniwala-paniwala talaga lahat.
Bakit? Hindi babae
ang nagkwento eh.
Mga fariseyo.
Lalaki nga,
fariseyo naman.
Kaya believe na believe yung
mga tao sa kanila. Etong sabi ng mga fariseyo,

ay nung gabi,
pinasok ng mga disciple
niya yung katawan, at ninakaw nila.
At quinento nilang
nabuhay siya.
At he's alive,
that he is God.
And so when the farisees
told that story,
then many of the Jews
believe
what the farisees
told them.
So dalawang kwento
yan.
Ang kwento,
ayon doon sa mga kristyano,
the followers of Christ,
and the story according
to the
farisees version.
That is
why people
are divided
because some believe
the story of the disciples,
some people,
until now, they don't believe that.
They believe
what the farisees told
them.
Amen?
Etong tanong ngayon,
ikaw,
ikaw,
sa dalawang kwento
na yan,
saan ka naniniwala?
What version do you believe?
Do you believe
what the farisees said?
Or do you believe
what the apostles
confirmed, and the
women who saw the
tomb empty?
Saan sa dalawang kwento na yan?
Mamimili tayo.
And the
choice between two stories
is very crucial for your life.
Because
one version of the story
will lead you eventually to death.
Mamamatay ka
na walang kristo ang buhay mo
if you don't believe
in the resurrection.
On the other hand, kung
wala ka sa kwento ng mga disciples
who saw the empty tomb,
then you will have eternal
life. That's why the two stories
are very crucial

for us to decide, saan
ka ba sa dalawang kwento
na yan? Etong ngayon,
sa buhay mo ngayon,
which of the two stories do you believe?
Amen?

You ask yourself that question.
That is why
during Easter, pag sinabi
ng pare, Christ
is risen, you
will know
in your heart if you
believe the story of the Pharisees
or the story of the
disciples. Because when
you hear the word, Christ is risen,
it will resonate
in your heart, truly,
indeed,
Christ
is risen. I know
in my heart because
I believe.

Hindi lang yan
sagutan-sagutan sa liturgy.
The response of saying
Christ is
risen, indeed,
hallelujah, it is a response
of faith.

We truly believe
what happened on that day.

The body of
Christ came back
to life again.

Sa second reading natin, kinikwento
doon that Peter confirmed
that when Jesus resurrected,
He appeared to certain
people, hindi naman sa lahat.
Nagpakita Siya
to certain people, and these people,
these people
where Jesus revealed Himself,
they were chosen
because they will become
witnesses.

Amen?

They will be the first witness of the
resurrection. And He
even appeared to the apostles,
pati sila kasama,
magiging witness.

Amen?

That is the second reading.
And today,
this is the question that
we ask in our life.

Do we truly
believe in our lives that
Jesus is risen?

You ask yourself.

You ask

yourself.

Now,

Lent and season,
ibabalik ko kayo sa Lent, sandali lang.

Just a few minutes,
just a recap of Lent.

The whole season of Lent
was about

connecting our
lives to Jesus
again.

The whole Lent and season
was about

reconnecting our lives
to Christ again.

Kinokonek natin ulit.

Kasi minsan pag hindi tayo nag-iingat
sa buhay natin, we get

so attached to so many things,
so many problems,

ang daming pinagkakaabalahan natin
sa mundong ito. Pera,

pamilya, problema.

We run to

and fro in our mind

that we forget

about our connection
to Jesus.

That's why pag pumasok tayo sa

Kwaresma, the Church

reconnects us to Christ.

Our reality

is Jesus.

That's why we went

through Lent reconnecting Christ

and how do we reconnect with

Christ? Papano tayo

nagkokonek kay Christ? By

making Christ the center

of our life. If you

cannot make Christ the center

of your life, you cannot connect
with Him.

The only way to connect with Jesus

is to put Him at

the very core and center

of your being.

Amen?

Nakina po yung radio,

pag nakikinig tayo sa FM,

pag yung tuner mo

hindi masyado nakakonek

doon,

hindi masentro doon sa station

na nagtatransmit

ng music

and program nila, medyo

maingay.

Until you hit the center of

that connection,

transmitter, then your radio

will sound clearly.

Ganon din tayo sa buhay

natin.

We find it hard
to connect with Christ
because He is not at
the center of our life.
That's why
Lenten season and
Holy Week, we
participated
in the activities
of the church.
Instead of going
somewhere and forgetting about
our religion, our way of
life and just enjoy
ourselves, we chose to come
to church.
Mainit,
nakahirap,
nakakapagod.
But the purpose
of that was to make Jesus
the center of our life so we can
connect with Him
again.
Reconnect our life
to Christ.
Now, Bishop,
bakit importante
yung connection na yan?
Because
when that
connection is there,
when you begin to connect your life
to Jesus, guess what?
Where Christ is,
that is where you will
be.
If Christ is risen,
then His
resurrection is
also your resurrection.
You will not fear death anymore.
Maybe
we will fear dying.
Yun lang namang kinatatakutan
natin.
But death, no need
to fear that.
Once connected to
Jesus, once connected to
His life, then
we know that where
Jesus is, that is
where we are.
We may go through difficulties
in our life.
Dadaan tayo
sa maraming pagsubok ng buhay.
I talk
to some people na talagang
going through a difficult time in their
life, nag-uusap kami.
And, you know,
I always tell them, this is what I

share with them, whatever it
is that you're going through in life today,
you are not alone.

Christ is
always with you. You know,
when they begin to understand that,
it doesn't matter anymore

masusolve ba
ang problema. Kung hindi,
okay lang, basta kasama ko
si Jesus.

You know? I was
talking to someone in the hospital.
Malubhan na
yung sakit nya.

He was about to die.
And everyone was worried.
Everyone was afraid.

Yung asawa, yung mga anak,
yung mga kamag-anak, takot na takot sila.
So, pati siya nahawa din
sa takot. He got so afraid.

Then I started to talk to him.
Shared with him
what the resurrection is all about.

When he understood,
when he understood
the scripture that
if you believe in Christ,
even if you

die,
kahit na mamatay ka,
you will live
again.

So,
before he passed away,
nag-usap kami, eto
sabi niya sa akin,
Father, I'm not
afraid anymore.

I am ready
to go.

So sabi niya, masyadong
matagal na naghihirap ang pamilya ko.

Naghirap na yung
katawan ko. Sabi niya,
alis na ako.

Kasi hindi naman talaga akong mamamatay.
Kasama ko si Jesus.

Lilipat lang ako ng bahay.
Ilang sabi niya. And he was not
afraid.

Noon na siya ang nahawa sa takot
ng pamilya niya. Noong bandang
huli, siya na yung nakahawa
sa kanila na huwag matakot.
And they were ready to let
go of him.

Amen? That's the
beauty of the resurrection of Jesus.

When you know
that you are connected to Him,
then where He is,
wherever He goes, and no matter

what you're going through in life,
you know and you will always
know, truly He
is risen.

Not going to be afraid anymore.
I'm not going to be afraid of
these things I'm facing in life.
I may be going through the cross
right now in my life,
going through difficult times,
but because I connect with
Jesus, He does not leave
me. He does not forsake
me. At that very moment
of trial and testing,
Christ is with you.
And where He is,
that is where
you will also be.
Kaya every Sunday,
anong pinapaalala ng pare sa atin?
The Lord is
with you.

He cannot be with you if
He is dead.
Hindi siya pwedeng makasama
sa'yo at hindi ka pwedeng makasama
sa kanya kung patay na siya.
But because He is risen,
because He is alive
today, the Lord
is with you.
Amen?

We know that in our heart,
truly connected to Him,
Christ is risen, truly
He is risen indeed.

I believe that in my heart.
I confirm that in my heart.
That's why that connection
gives us hope
when there is no hope
around you anymore.

That connection
to Jesus gives you
joy even if
you cannot find the joy
around you anymore.
It gives you so much joy.
In the midst of turmoil,
in the midst of the storm,
you will have the peace of God
because of that
connection we have.

So I
encourage you, my dear brothers
and sisters,
stay connected.

Lent
is about being
connected with Jesus.
Connected in His suffering,
connected
in His death,

now connected
in His resurrection.
His resurrection
is also our
resurrection.
Please stand.