



EASTER MESSAGE

It is not just about a stone rolled away, after all the angel said to Mary, 'Why do you seek him here?'

We have the perfect image at this time to remind us of the true meaning of Easter... empty churches!

For Jesus left the tomb, just as we have left the church buildings, for real life, the resurrection life, is out in the community, harvesting in the mission field. Even social distancing, we are able to pray with, and for, the vulnerable and socially disadvantaged.

On my walks to shop, post and with my dog, I have encountered M who is mentally challenged, wandering confused, H a recovering drug addict

struggling to find the support needed, T an alcoholic, many elderly whose lifeline is walking out to find human contact even if just a hello across the street, sufferers of domestic abuse escaping for a short while from their abuser. All seekers for peace and hope.

God's love can be seen, not just in churches, but in the deliveries of care packages, health care, sacrificial giving of time and continuing to work to offer the help needed, on helplines for domestic abused, the suicidal, children and so many more.

Whether it be on your daily walk, through the social network and online contacts, may this be your prayer: **All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for you; and every life I touch, may your light shine, through the words I speak, the prayer I breathe, and every action I take. Amen**

This time is for us too as we celebrate the gift of Jesus in his death and resurrection. To know about Christ is not the same as to know Him, our faith is not about what we know but about who we know. We can know the story of Easter, yet miss the point of it, because we have not taken it to our hearts.

After that Easter Day, Jesus made a point of meeting with his disciples, to encourage, inform and direct. So take heart, as his disciples he continues to be present

to do the same for you. In every circumstance, he can enable you to grow and strengthen in whatever he has called you to do.

If you are isolated, you can still pray; never feel useless, simply seek God and he will show you the way to serve. If you have a gift, you can use it! For when Jesus met with his disciples, he did so to give them purpose, inspire them to continue his work and nothing has changed, he wants you to be inspired by the Holy Spirit.

What will you take from this Easter story? Take the hope and peace promised and gifted to you and may God bless you in your discipleship and calling.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Irena Byron".

Rev Irena Byron