



# DIOCESE OF ALGOMA

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From the Archbishop

## *Easter Greetings from Archbishop Anne*



Dear friends in Christ,

The retelling of the death of a loved one is often situated in a particular time and place. *“We were at home. We’d just finished breakfast and John got up to wash the dishes. I heard a crash and saw him fall.”*

The Passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ begins in the Upper Room with the words, *“And it was night.”* (John 13.30) Jesus knows that long before now darkness had entered Judas’s heart and that it is he who will betray him. After giving Judas the bread Jesus tells him to do it quickly and as Judas slips away from the table darkness overshadows the whole world until the women arrive at the tomb on Sunday morning.

As difficult as sitting in the darkness is, as painful as hearing the Passion may be, as hard as waiting for Saturday’s Vigil to be over is, these days are important for us as faith communities to come together and be united in our sorrow and then in our joy. I invite you all to be a part of as many of the services offered in your community over the next few days as you can possibly attend.

These days are gifts, given to us to grieve the death of our beloved friend Jesus, and to be drawn closer to him. Did he not say that by his death he would draw all people to himself? These are days given to us to be together to pray for the whole world, for our beloved church, for those who have turned their backs on Christ, and for those near and dear to us who are suffering. In the silence of these moments of communal prayer we are

given time to look into our own hearts to uncover those places where we have allowed the darkness to overcome the light. Close your eyes and imagine all 3.2 billion Christians around the globe praying together for the sins and salvation of the whole world. It's a powerful image.

New life, hope, and joy also finds its voice in a particular time and place. The Psalmist writes – *“Weeping may linger for the night; but joy comes in the morning.”* (Psalm 30.5) Mary comes to the tomb in the early morning ready for sorrow, but not to be surprised. Jesus comes from the shadows and steps into the light, bringing with him the dawn of a new day. He calls her name – *Mary*, and she who has been looking for Jesus is found by him.

So too, whatever we are searching for in our lives finds its answer in the Risen Christ who comes to us and calls us by name. As we live in Him we become new creations – *“Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new.”* (2 Cor. 5.17)

This Easter may you be found by the Risen Lord wherever you may be and may His newness of life overflow into your hearts, homes, churches, and communities.

Alleluia He is Risen. He is Risen Indeed!

With gratitude for our lives in Him.

+ Anne

