

Sermon Summary

Easter Sunday

8th April 2012

- Easter gives a message of hope which contradicts all common sense: death becomes life, despair becomes hope.
- We are very good at waiting for this in terms of our own death: when we die, we are confident that God will take care of us.
- However, when we hit crises in this life (little deaths, we might say) we resort to the defaults of panic and despair. Our Easter hope is discarded, and those reversals do not enter the picture.
- “The Church is dying!”- panic. And all from people who claim faith in a Messiah who died and rose.
- Somewhere, we need to reclaim the Christian hope and virtue that allows for hope and new life this side of the grave. That actually puts into practice what it professes in proclaiming, as Paul put it, Christ’s death until he comes again.
- The great writers of the NT never thought of Christian hope as something for “after death”.
- They talk about new life.
- When does it begin?
- For John, it begins at baptism, in that new birth in the Spirit, when the believer is born from above.
- We need to live this hope to share it with others. Who will join the church of Chicken Little?
- The medieval monks lived in hard and brutal times. They looked on going to sleep as a dangerous act: who knew if you would wake up in one piece.
- They celebrated each new day as a “little resurrection”.
- If we start our days in this frame of mind, what a difference it might make to our understanding and living of our Christian hopes!

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