



Office of the Bishop

14 April 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings and peace in the Lord!

“Mary Magdalene went and said to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord.” (John 20.18)

We see in our Gospel for Easter Sunday that Mary’s expectations were shattered when she went to Jesus’ tomb. So much so, she had to run and tell Peter and John, who in turn run to the empty tomb themselves and share in her astonishment. But it wasn’t astonishment at the resurrection of Jesus. Rather, it was astonishment that the tomb was empty.

Mary’s astonishment and sadness soon gave way to Easter joy when Jesus appeared to her and revealed that He had indeed risen from the dead.

We all have encountered empty tombs in our lives, and the shock and sadness that accompanies them. Every Easter Jesus reminds us that we were not intended for the tomb, but for life, and the glory of the resurrection.

May you experience the Easter joy Mary felt when she encountered the Risen Lord, and may it transform your lives and inspire hope in your own resurrection from the dead and the gift of eternal life that Jesus offers us.

God bless you and your families this Easter!

Sincerely in Christ our Lord,

✠ Gregory J Bittman
Bishop of Nelson