



## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

March 22, 2024

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am sure that many are familiar with the phrase, “my word is my bond”. It simply means that this person will always keep a promise. This seems a rarity these days.

Many promises are made each day with little sincerity or effort to fulfil what is being promised. It can be extremely discouraging and painful when someone does not keep his or her word.

In the Gospel of St. Matthew, Jesus makes the following promise to his disciples, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified; and on the third day he will be raised.” (Matthew 20:18-19). Jesus states clearly that, although he will die, on the third day he will rise from the dead. On Easter Sunday he fulfilled this promise.

Jesus also states that there can be no Resurrection without His suffering and death. The passion leads to paradise and the trials of this life prepare us for the joys of eternal life.

In a world where we are bombarded with so many insincere words and empty promises, we can feel overwhelmed and confused. Life can seem burdensome. This is why it is so important to focus on Jesus and His Resurrection.

When we do this, we find hope. We are reminded that the word of Jesus is His bond, and it is also the Truth. He offers the words that lead us to eternal life. Jesus also helps us to be more faithful so that we are better able to keep our promises.

Where we find discouragement, may the promise of the Resurrection give us hope. May our Risen Lord be a constant source of encouragement for you!

Please be assured of my prayers and best wishes for a Blessed Easter.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.  
Bishop of St. Catharines