



## EASTER MESSAGE 2019

Dear Friends in Christ,

On Good Friday last year, I experienced for the first time the moving event that is the Way of the Cross through the city streets of Peterborough. I was impressed by the young cast who had worked so hard to re-create the Lord's road to Calvary and inspired by the hundreds of faithful who came out to walk along the way with them. And it was cold enough that I was chilled right through by the final station! Still, I found warmth in the faith and good will of the great crowds that gathered that day. Perhaps you will consider joining this moving Lenten experience if you are in the vicinity on Good Friday.

The whole Church goes through a pilgrimage during Holy Week, beginning with the Lord's entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, stepping into the Upper Room on the night of the Last Supper, and re-tracing Jesus' steps to his crucifixion and death on Good Friday. And yet we are never in doubt about the end point of the pilgrimage – it is the bright dawn of Easter Sunday and the empty tomb where the angel declares "He is not here. He is risen!"

We all go through times of darkness and difficulty on our life journeys. The Church too goes through periods of trial, torment and humiliation, much like we have experienced since last summer. At times, our trust in humans and our faith in God may get a little bruised and battered. But we know that the Lord never abandons us, and we trust in God's power to bring light out of darkness and life out of death. This is the Easter faith that guides the steps of our journey, as individuals and as a Church community. This is the faith that brings us joy.

May you all have a blessed Holy Week and Easter that brings you strength of faith, renewal in hope, and confirmation of God's love and grace.

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel Miehm  
Bishop of Peterborough