

## **A view from the Rectory Window Easter 2026 - He is risen!**

One of the world's leaders, who I will not name to avoid making my article political, but is known to all of us, has recently been exhorting the people of Iran to 'rise up' and seize their destiny. As we celebrate the Christian festival of Easter, focusing on the celebration of the resurrection of Christ. I would like to invite us all to reflect on the difference between being told to 'rise up' and the statement of the angel to the women at Jesus' tomb that 'He is risen'.

Many of Jesus exhortations to 'rise up' are given in the context of his healing ministry, the most well-known example being at the healing of the paralytic man (John 5:8). In the healing Jesus says to the man 'Rise, take up thy bed, and walk'. In this sense Jesus' command to 'Rise up' is a very physical act, reflecting how we are in ourselves, how we can live our own lives and one's own physical abilities. Rising is therefore an act that reflects very much how we are, and our individual sense of self-worth rather than our impact on others. When we proclaim 'He is Risen' we are not only looking to our Lord as someone who has overcome death but also as a Saviour who has shown us the way to rise above all the things that weigh us down in this life. A person who lifts us up and provides critical aid in difficult situations. Hence, we share Jesus' resurrection not only in the promise of the life to come, but also in a sense of being lifted in the here and now!

One of the most powerful sermons I have ever heard was spoken to a group of homeless people who were told by the preacher of God's love for them as his people, because they were the ones who were being constantly 'knocked down', marginalized, and crushed by society. He described their resilience and fortitude as a testimony to their ability to get back up no matter how many times they had been knocked down.

Therefore, when we hear the Christian message of Resurrection do not associate it with any other individual's call to 'Rise up'. Jesus is not inspiring us to be revolutionary, or in that sense to take to the streets. Our Rising as Christians is far more profound and personal. We, in the Easter message, are invited to share much more than the resurrection to life to come (which is enough for hope and celebration). We are being invited to 'Rise up' in healing of mind, soul, and Spirit. A Resurrection of wellbeing that is as much of this world as the life to come. So that when we proclaim, 'He is risen, we are risen with him'.

Rev. Richard