

### ❖ **Some gifts of Easter**

The *Season* of Easter [7 weeks up to Pentecost] is about rejoicing and renewal. Two of the great blessings of Easter to rejoice over and be renewed in are **HOPE** and **HOLINESS**:

#### **Hope**

- looks for the good in people instead of harping on the worst;
- opens doors where despair closes them;
- discovers what can be done instead of grumbling about what cannot;
- draws its power from a deep trust in God and the basic goodness of human nature;
- 'lights a candle' instead of 'cursing the darkness';
- regards problems, small or large, as opportunities;
- cherishes no illusions, nor does it yield to cynicism;
- sets big goals and is not frustrated by repeated difficulties or setbacks;
- pushes ahead when it would be easy to quit;
- puts up with modest gains, realising that 'the longest journey starts with one step';
- accepts misunderstandings as the price for serving the greater good of others;
- is a good loser because it has the divine assurance of final victory.

#### **Holiness**

- is not something that comes from doing good: we do good because we are holy;
- is not something we acquire by avoiding evil: we avoid evil because we are holy;
- is not something that follows from prayer: we pray because we are holy;
- is not the result of kindness: we are kind because we are holy;
- is not something that blossoms when we are courageous: we are courageous because we are holy;
- is not the result of character building; we build character because we are holy;
- is not a gift we obtain after a lifetime of service: we give service because we are holy.