

## EASTER 2019



### PASCHAL GREETING

Beloved in the Lord, brothers and sisters!

With quick steps the Holy Church is approaching the culmination of our faith - the Sacred Resurrection of Christ.

The period before Resurrection is a time of reflection, repentance, confession and washing our souls and bodies from the temptations of sin.

The Holy Sacraments of the Church, most notably the Holy Communion (the Body and the Blood of Christ) are the means to attain this goal. The period after the Resurrection is a time of joy, gratitude to God, and good deeds in the name of the Son of God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

To belong to the Holy Church means to be a diligent executor of God's commandments and church canons, "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace" (1 Corinthians 14:33).

"Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are." (1 Corinthians 3: 16-17).

Brothers and sisters,

Now is the time to follow God's call and to be not only listeners of the Word but also His performers.

In these blessed days of light and joy, God asks us to be in His Temple, to rejoice for our grace given salvation and eternal life. Let's go together to share with Christ His sufferings in the last week of His life.

To witness His death and be healed from our pride, selfishness, greed, and sinful thoughts and to exclaim with joy: "Christ Has Risen from the dead, with death, death is destroyed, but to all in the graves He gave eternal life!"



And again, "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say rejoice! Let your **gentleness** be known to all men. **The Lord is at hand!**" (Phil. 4: 4-5).

**Christ is Risen!**

Father Vesselin Arnaoudov – Parish Priest and Archbishop Vicar

