

He Has Truly Risen!

Bishop Alain Faubert's Easter Message 2026



Dear brothers and sisters of the Church of God in the Valleyfield Diocese, on behalf of the entire diocesan team: Happy Easter!

I hope that as you read this, you can also hear me a little: the joyful and strong tone of my voice as I express this wish for you, for all of us. To be sure I am understood, I will repeat it with all possible emphasis: **HAPPY EASTER!** But I feel that despite all the enthusiasm and embellishments I could add, the true joy of Easter does not come from shouting louder or using capital letters.

So what makes Easter a joyful celebration? The wonderful reunions with family and friends? I wish you many happy ones! The end of Lent and unlimited chocolate? I wish you all the Easter eggs in the world! The return of spring after the long winter? May your lungs be filled with sweet, fresh air, and may your eyes rejoice in the tender colors of the new shoots!

But, in addition to all these very real joys, isn't there an even more intense, profound, and lasting joy available to us Christians at Easter? Brothers and sisters, what will make our Easter celebration in 2026, truly joyful?

I imagine that it will simply be a matter of connecting ourselves with all our being, to the joy of the first Christians when, against all odds, they saw their Master and Lord, whom they had believed to be crucified, standing, alive, resurrected, glorified. They simply could not believe their eyes and ears: "The Lord has truly risen! He has appeared to Simon Peter!" " (Lk 24:34). "We have seen the Lord!" (Jn 20:25). A joy that resurrected the disciples themselves, when sadness, shame, fear, and doubt had them locked up, all doors bolted, as if in a tomb. A contagious joy that spreads to all the "Thomasases" who are still unbelieving. And now they are courageous witnesses of the Good News on the roads of the world. Nothing can stop them anymore. The joy of the Resurrection has taken hold of them!

In wishing you a happy Easter, I hope, brothers and sisters, that you will be filled, as if for the first time, with the amazement and wonder of the disciples on the evening of the Resurrection. Because you and I need this fresh perspective on the source of our hope, in order to have a renewed view of ourselves and others, and also of our world worn down by wars and the brutality of the powerful.

Christ is risen; He is truly risen. He tells us again: "I am with you to sow Peace." If we become Sowers of His Peace, we will discover Him at our side.

Brothers and sisters, may the joy of Easter be with you always!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alain Faubert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

† Alain, Bishop