

## An Easter message from the Vicar:

In the sixth of his articles on the Search for Truth, occult writer and theologian, John Temple says:

"Easter is a universal festival of great antiquity. The ancients celebrated the Vernal Equinox (which falls between 19 to 21 March each year in our calendar) as the renewal of Nature. It was only in the fourth century that the Church fixed on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the Vernal Equinox as the date of their celebration of Easter."

In his book "The Inner Side of Christian Festivals", Bishop Leadbeater states:

"The word Easter is derived from Eostre, which is the name of the Anglo-Saxon goddess of Spring; there is a further derivation beyond that, because Eostre is only another form of Ishtar, Ashtaroth or Astarte, the Queen of Heaven, and even that in turn, if we go far enough back, comes from the Sanskrit Ush, which means light; the word from which springs the title Ushas, the dawn maidens of the Vedas. So fundamentally Easter is the great festival of light - of the rising again of the Light of the World."

So much for some of the historical development of the Easter festival. But what about the hidden meaning of this Easter festival?

Jesus tells us: "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." (John 11: 24-26).

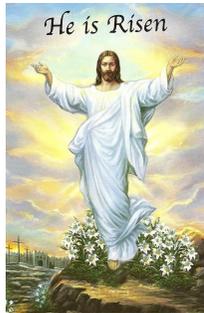
So Jesus basically states that accepting his teachings will enable us to discover (or re-discover) that we are spirit beings who have eternal life.

H. P. Blavatsky, in one of her articles confirms that the risen Christ is within each one of us:

"He who strives to resurrect the Spirit crucified in him by his own terrestrial passions, and buried deep in the 'sepulchre' of his sinful flesh; he who has the strength to roll back the stone of matter from the door of his own inner sanctuary, he has the risen Christ in him." (Collected Writings of H. P. Blavatsky, Vol. VIII p.173).

John Temple agrees that the Christ principle is within all of us. He says:

"We are all saviours of ourselves in the form of our own Higher Selves. This is the Christ principle in all of us." "...the real, eternal life for all of us commences when we turn our face to Heaven, and leaving behind the illusions of this world, attune in thought and deed with the spiritual realms of Light. It is in this way that we truly live the life eternal, even whilst we are still on earth and imprisoned in the bonds of the flesh."



So, the main concepts which are associated with Easter and which we need to remember and realise within ourselves are:

**Spring, Renewal, Light, Resurrecting the Spirit, Attuning in thought, word and deed with the spiritual realms of Light, and thereby: Re-discovering the Christ principle within ourselves.**

The clergy and congregation of St John the Divine wish each and every one of you a blessed Easter.

On behalf of St John the Divine Liberal Catholic Church,

*Fr Adrian de Graaf (Vicar)*

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