

## **Paschal Mystery of Jesus and Sharing our Easter 2020**

The whole world has been engulfed with the fatal influence of Corona Virus. There are over 1.5 millions Corona virus Cases in the 220 countries of the world and over 88 thousand deaths, while over 358,000 have been recovered.

The situation in Pakistan is worsening and multiplying with regard to this. Till the last news on 10 April the number of total effected was 44,500 and deaths were 65. But we have been alarmed that it may reach to massive number in coming few weeks.

The most effected ones are daily wagers, laborers, street vendors...etc. This category of workers are earning merely enough to feed their children with one or two meals a day. And now because of precautionary social distancing and isolation and lock down they have to stay at home and be without income. And Government may propose and plan to extend this lock down for 4 weeks. Please see some pictures of Jurian, my home village, with closed schools, shops and empty high ways and roads reaching this village because of lock down.

Our Government has undertaken many and multiple efforts to help the poor and the most effected ones. Government is doing its best to meet the health requirements of people and building up its capacity to prepare and respond. Government is also trying to reach out poor daily wagers by providing basic food. The utility bills (Water, Gas and electricity) and School fee will be discounted...etc.

There are also many NGO's, religious organizations and individuals and volunteer working of the same cause.

But it is tragic to communicate that sometimes Christians are discriminated from this financial help either because of political prejudice or because of religious discrimination. So the only source of help for Christians is through the Church or through Christian organization.

In our own way we are trying to reach out as many poor families as possible. We are making packs for each family. This pack contains supplies of essential food commodities such as Flour, Rice, Pulses, Cooking Oil, Sugar, Tea Leaves, Milk, Salt, Red Chili Powder, Soaps, Detergent...etc. This approximately cost Rs. 6,500.- (= EURO 35.-) per family, per month.

It is historical coincident that Corona virus has erupted at a time when we are liturgically celebrating Paschal mystery (Passion, Death and Resurrection) of Jesus Christ. In face of this great suffering of humanity while on the one had we reflect on Jesus' suffering among humanity today, we also pledge to share Easter of Christ and our own Easter with those who are suffering.

With this as background I would like to appeal for **your prayers and financial support** to help the poor Christian families. May I appeal to your financial donation whatever it may be.

Let us stand united in solidarity. Let us continue praying for alleviation of this fatal suffering and for abundance of life in our world.

God bless you with Easter joy and life.

Yours in Christ the Lord

Fr. Emmanuel Asi  
10 April 2020 (Lahore, Pakistan)  
**100<sup>th</sup> Day**  
Health Organization (WHO) When World  
of the first cases Corona Virus. was notified