



## CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE IN SRI LANKA

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### Easter Message by the Catholic Bishops' Conference in Sri Lanka - 2026

#### *Who will Roll the Stone for us?*

This year's Easter message comes at a time when the world is wounded by violence and fear due to the cruel war fuelled by greater human powers in the world to achieve sometimes their personal interests. Our hearts are heavy with the pain caused by the echoes of weeping and loud lamentation of many families who mourn for their lost one's and try to bandage the wounded. We stand in prayerful solidarity with these innocent victims. As a result of this escalating situation, peace has become increasingly fragile and a distant hope. Yet the message of Easter reminds us that darkness never has the final word. Even amidst the sounds of war, the empty tomb speaks a quiet but a powerful truth. From the tomb came new life. Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb? (Mk. 16:3) This was the question posed by the women who approached the tomb of Jesus in order to anoint Him. But when they arrived, they were shocked and surprised, for the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back (Lk. 24:2). **It is the Lord who had rolled the stone.** It is this truth that gives us the message of hope today.

After many sacrifices during the season of Lent, we were inspired by the Holy Week services that culminate in the liturgy of the Holy Saturday which include the lighting of the New Fire, the Easter Proclamation and the acceptance of new Catholics into the Faith. All these liturgical celebrations would become a source of Joy and Hope for the Believers, only when we could say after the personal encounter of the Risen Lord, "were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road" (Luke 24:32).

For the young and the old, innocent and righteous, rich and poor, etc., all over the world those walking with the question, who will roll, the stone of terror and violence, the stone of extremism among the races and religions that continue to take the lives of countless innocent and leave another group with gaping wounds, injuries, disabilities and incurable illness, stone of injustice caused by the systematic inequalities, abuse of authority or unjust acts,



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stone of addiction and immoral practices promoted by some States and adhered to by the emerging future generation: the only answer is **it is the Lord, who could roll these stones.**

On good Friday, the world saw suffering, injustice and death, but on Easter morning God revealed that life is stronger than death, love is stronger than hatred and hope is stronger than despair. May His resurrection renew our faith and strengthen our hope even during these dark times with the assurance that the **Lord will roll the stone** of incredible, unimaginable and unmoveable obstacles that threaten the universal peace. Let us continue to pray during this Easter season that the rule of the '**hand of Cain**' be overcome by the '**heart of sincere conversion**' of those in power.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference in Sri Lanka (CBCSL) wishes all the Faithful Happy Easter. Alleluia!

  
Rt. Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera  
Bishop – Catholic Diocese of Kurunagela,  
President – CBCSL



  
Rt. Rev. Dr. P. Anton Ranjith  
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of Colombo, Apostolic  
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