



Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

The Right Reverend Samuel Rose, B.A, M.Div (Hon)
Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

CHURCH HOUSE
22 Church Hill
St. John's, NL A1C 3Z9
Telephone: (709) 576-6697
Fax: (709) 576-7122
Email: bishop@anglicanenl.net

Bishop's Easter Letter 2026

Dear Beloved in Christ,

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

These past few days, I've been reflecting on Thomas Merton's words in his 1959 essay "Easter: The New Life" from the book Seasons of Celebration. Merton, a Trappist monk devoted to contemplating profound spiritual truths, makes Easter feel immediate and vital amid our daily struggles and global chaos. He reminds us that true hope springs from the Cross, where darkness seems absolute before the dawn of resurrection light.

In our world today, we hear hateful speech and see unfair systems at work. Merton calls this "*established disorder*." Yet, Easter invites us to see beyond this chaos and pulls us toward something better. It is not just wishful thinking: it's a deep-rooted confidence that the Resurrection can change us from the heart outwards. Like Christ moving from the pain of the Cross to the triumph of the empty tomb. As St. Paul reminds us in Romans 6:4, "*We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life,*" - so we are given strength to face our own tough times, whatever they may be personally or globally, knowing grace will guide us to healing and true freedom.

No matter where you find yourself this Easter - amid personal trials or global unrest - look for the sparks of resurrection life emerging around you. With all the worries and problems at home and in the world, Easter calls us to be builders of peace. As Merton wrote, "*If (a person) has hopes that God will grant peace to the world, it is because they also trust that... there is in (humanity) a potentiality for peace and order which can be realized, provided the right conditions are there. The Christian will do their part in creating these conditions by preferring love and trust to hate and suspiciousness.*"

Taking a cue from Merton, we can make a real effort to uproot anger, selfishness, and distrust in our own lives and relationships. Whether we're people of faith or simply trying to do good, we can choose peace over violence and love over hatred. We can spread good news to those who need it, help mend what's broken, and create places where everyone, regardless of background, culture, or circumstance, feels included and valued as signs of hope. This Easter, celebrating that empty tomb, let's recommit to a world that's already shifting toward the good, even if it's not fully there yet.

As Merton wrote: “Let us not then darken the joy of Christ's victory by remaining in captivity and darkness, but let us declare His power, by living as free (people) who have been called by Him out of darkness into his admirable light.”

Easter brings with it a promise: Christ's Resurrection breaks through death and hopelessness, opening the way to new life for all. We can turn away from the conflicts of our time and move toward the real love that builds bridges instead of walls.

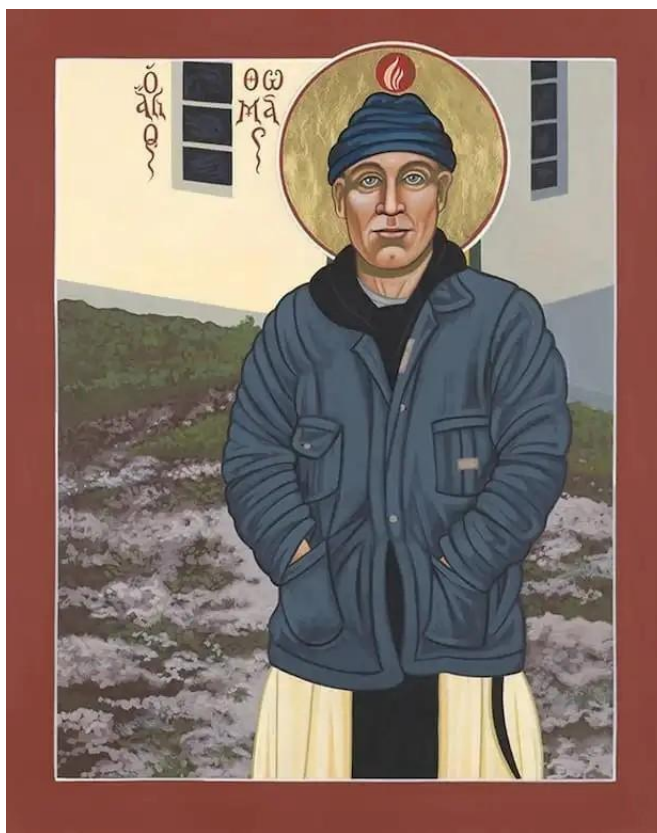
I invite you to share how Easter's hope is manifesting in your communities as we share this resurrection light together. May we do so in hope and trust as we go forth in peace, affirming: **Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

In Resurrection hope,

+ Samuel: Eastern Newfoundland; Labrador

The Right Rev. Samuel Rose
Diocesan Bishop
Anglican Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

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All quotes from: Thomas Merton, Seasons of Celebration (New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1965).



Thomas Merton icon by William Hart McNichols