

BBC C&W Easter 2015 Message from the Bishop of Coventry

Easter celebrates Jesus rising from the dead. And dead Jesus was. That's the point. Executed through the brutal torture of crucifixion that sucks the breath and life out of a human body.

The resurrection of Jesus – his coming to life – was just that: new life out of death. That's the point. Jesus' body lay in a tomb, dead. But, in the first hours of the Easter morning, God's life raised the dead body of Jesus into new life.

The world was changed. God showed that his power to give life is stronger than both the human capacity to cause death and our powerlessness to resist death when it comes to us.

Sometimes parts of our lives die. Hurt numbs our emotions and a bit of us dies, unable to love anymore. Disappointment deflates our confidence and a bit of us dies, unable to achieve anymore. Age, accident or illness damages our bodies and a bit of us dies, unable to do what we used to do. Eventually death comes and the whole of us dies. Everything ends.

Or does it? Easter tells us that God is life and that God can bring us back to life when we are hurt or disappointed or damaged. Easter shows that God can give us life again when we die – eternal life, life that does not end but just goes on getting better and better.

Easter is the message of hope for our future: proving that God can give us life beyond death if we would just embrace it.

And Easter is the message of hope for our present: demonstrating that God gives us life before death – that within the despair and disappointment, the pressure and the pain that sometimes deaden us, Jesus Christ is here, risen from the grave, to breath his new life into us, so that we might be fully alive in this life, as well as in the life to come.

I hope that you will have a very happy Easter and your life will be full of life.