

NEWSLETTER

In this issue

- Everlasting hope
- He is risen!
- What's New?

Everlasting hope

In a world where many life choices seem to be between bad or worse, it is easy to get disheartened and start believing that change, positive change can never happen. From

the early days of humanity, hatred, wars, treachery, corruption, and lust for power plagued this world. Yet amidst this darkness humanity trudges on against all odds. As the Psalmist David reflects *"If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort"* (Psalm 22:4).

In Greek mythology, Pandora's box was a gift from the gods to Pandora. It contained all the evils of the world, which were released when Pandora opened the box. However, it also contained hope. The evils inside the box represent the challenges and difficulties in our lives, while hope represents the optimism and resilience to overcome those challenges.

Easter is the season of everlasting hope. Even its timing at the doorstep of springtime imparts a sense of hope, a sense of new life, a sense of continuity. Spring is that time of year where nature springs back to life after the long cold nights of winter.

Easter fulfils our hope in Jesus, the Son of God, who not only came into this world to share our humanity, but through his death and resurrection threw open the doors to eternal life.

A typical dictionary defines the word hope as "a feeling of expectation and desire for a particular thing to happen". A valid definition, yet suggestive of a temporal kind of hope, a basic hope that can be discouraged, that can be destroyed. A hope without a warranty, a hope so fragile that is best kept inside Pandora's box!

Easter however challenges this interpretation of hope. Easter brings to the fore a hope that is grounded in faith; this is living hope. Living hope cannot be destroyed. It cannot be discoloured by disillusionment, disenchantment, disappointment, or bitterness. Living Hope does not age, and it cannot die because it resides in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Living hope is hope set free in our world.

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die" (John 11:25)

Life is not always perfect. Bad things happen, injustice abounds, and innocent people suffer. And one asks how is it that one can trust God with all the low points in life? The answer is in the living hope, the idea that the life we know is not the complete picture. There is more to come after the life we experience in our frail human bodies. The apostle Paul, albeit all the suffering and injustice he endured, pleaded the hope in the resurrection when put on trial for preaching the Good News.

Living hope gives humanity meaning, it gives us that ability to endure and prevail against all odds. Living hope is that hope which participates in the continuous process of God's creation which the honest, hard working worker participates in. Work is not just a means to a pay cheque at the end of the month, albeit this is important as is just compensation for work. Work is more pointedly participation in creation, and how can one be participant in a life-giving creation, if they give up on life – what would be the point?

When tempted to give up, let's turn our eyes to the events of Easter Sunday and re-energised double our efforts to remain agents of living hope. Agents that have an unwavering belief that change is possible, good is possible. Let's truly engage in active action to bring about this change. A person that believes in living hope cannot be passive but must actively engage in society through all means at their disposal, all to their own abilities.

Active action can be as simple as doing my daily job with diligence, exemplary behaviour, being clearly and vocally incorruptible. For some it's just ordinary, for others it is a calling for the extraordinary, to dedicate their time, energy, and life to fight for justice.

When we put our trust in God *"Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life"* (Psalm 22:6). Therefore, let us as we experience the season of Easter ask God for this living hope in Jesus Christ our saviour and king. Let us hope for change and let us be that change today.



"Yes, brothers and sisters at Easter the destiny of the world was changed, and on this day, which also coincides with the most probable date of Christ's resurrection, we can rejoice to celebrate, by pure grace, the most important and beautiful day of history."

"Christ is risen; he is truly risen!" In this traditional proclamation of the Churches of the East: Christòs anesti! That word 'truly' reminds us that our hope is not an illusion, but the truth!"

"And that, in the wake of Easter, humanity's journey, now marked by hope, advances all the more readily."

Pope Francis (Easter Sunday 2023)



ŻHN Annual General Meeting

The ŻHN annual general meeting was held on the 18th of March. During the annual meeting a number of topics of significant import to the movement were discussed, as well as welcoming three new members in the general council.

ŻHN Website

Our movement has an online presence at www.zhnmalta.org. Here you will find all our publications and more information about the movement.