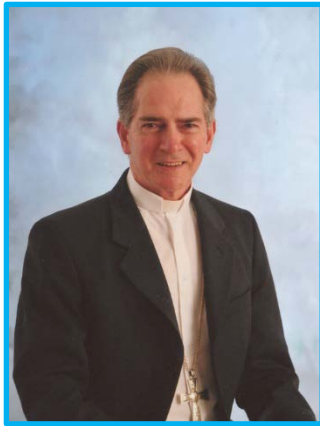




THE EASTER MOON



If you look up on a clear night around Easter, you will see that the moon is close to full. This is no coincidence. The date of Easter is actually linked to the full moon. Easter is celebrated on the Sunday after the full moon after the northern hemisphere's Spring equinox.

Why this link to the moon? It is because Easter developed from the Jewish feast of Passover, a Spring time festival celebrated according to a calendar based on the phases of the moon. Yet the link between Easter and the moon is not only a matter of ancient calendars. The Easter full moon also suggests a very important element of the Christian feast.

The light of the moon is not dazzling like the light of the sun. Rather, the light of moon is more serene. The moon sheds a beautiful soft light into an otherwise dark night. In some ways, Easter celebrates this kind of serene, beautiful light. At Easter, Christians celebrate the resurrection of Christ and we can compare his rising to the rising of the moon.



A song that has been sung for centuries at Easter tells of Christ "who, coming back from death's domain, has shed his peaceful light on humanity." Easter is a time to give thanks that Christ has risen from the dead and that he offers his peaceful light to all the world.

Our times are often dark and troubled. May the peaceful light of the risen Christ shine upon us. Where there is darkness, may Christ bring a gentle light. Where people are troubled, may Christ bring them peace.

Happy Easter!

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