



The Bishop of Lincoln

March 2019

As the Bishop of Lincoln I write to wish each of you a happy and holy Easter. I also have some numbers that can help us to remember the importance of Lent and Easter.

When the disciples saw Jesus on the cross they thought they had lost everything – Jesus was dead. That was not the case. On that first Easter Day, where Jesus' body had been laid, there was an empty tomb. This was a new beginning. Jesus showed himself to his disciples and encouraged them to live in the way he had taught them. Some two thousand years later we are also called to live the same way and tell of God's love through what we say and do.

There are some numbers that can help us to focus on how we can be strengthened by God and tell of God's love. We often hear about the 40 days of Lent, a time when Jesus retreated into the desert and when faced by temptation he trusted in God. 40 days can be a time to give something up or focus on new habits. The next number is 50. The Church celebrates Easter for 50 days: 40 days between Easter and Ascension, when Christ ascended to heaven, then 10 more days until Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was sent to the first disciples to preach the gospel and tell of God's love.

There is one more number that I would like to mention to you. That number is 63 and it is a gift to each of us. We can be reminded of the call to tell of God's love through the 63 words of the Lord's Prayer. You may wish to ask adults when they first learnt these 63 words. They can be said by us each day and the words remind us that we are called to live in God's love. The first words: "Our Father in Heaven..." remind us of God's strong love for us – that God made us and loves each of us and every other living being. We are made in love and called to love others as God's children. You may wish to say this prayer for the 50 days of Easter.

So a happy Easter to you, know that each of you is loved – and enjoy the chocolate if you are lucky to receive some Easter eggs.

With every good wish,

+ Christopher Lincoln :

The Right Reverend Christopher Lowson
Bishop of Lincoln