



His Most Reverend Héctor Vila, Bishop of the Diocese of Whitehorse

Pastoral Letter for Easter 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we approach Easter, we reflect on the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who became man for our salvation. Through His sacrifice, we experience the joy of being always loved by God. Often, we think God only loves us when things are going well, but the true God, revealed on the cross, awaits us even in our lowest moments.

During this Easter season, we are reminded of the story of the prodigal son, highlighting that the Father waits for our return (*Lk. 15:1*). His love and kindness encourage us to reflect on our lives and seek forgiveness, even amid personal suffering and global struggles.

As we celebrate the resurrection, let us remember that the spirit of the living God unites us as one family, bringing peace and reconciliation. Just as Joseph, upon meeting his brothers who out of jealousy had sold him into slavery, asks, "Is our father alive?" (*Genesis 45:3*). This question is so crucial in our midst today because if God our father is alive there is Hope for us, and reconciliation is possible even in the most difficult situations of our lives.

Saint Paul tells us in the letter to the Romans, "Hope does not disappoint". Since the beginning of our Jubilee year, we have repeatedly heard that our Hope is Christ, who, by dying, destroyed our death, and by rising, restored our lives. This Jubilee Year encourages us to renew our spiritual lives, reflect on our relationship with God, embrace Christ, and open our hearts to God's saving power.

The Holy Year is an opportunity for us to welcome the Word of God concretely into our lives and journey as disciples of Christ. Through participation in pilgrimages, the sacrament of reconciliation, Eucharistic celebrations, and other events in our diocese, let us strengthen our faith and draw closer to each other and to God. Our Diocese is preparing Door-to-Door Pastoral Visits, a Chalice Pilgrim Tour for Vocations, and a special Jubilee Mass for Family Day. You can expect more details in May through your parish or mission.

This Easter, let us allow the Lord to guide us as Pilgrims of Hope, trusting in His faithfulness. Let us pray for one another, for our Indigenous brothers and sisters, and for the many missionaries and families who help make our Church in the North a place where we can experience God's protection throughout our parishes and missions.

May the Lord bless you during this holy season, and may Mary, our Mother, guide us in faith and renewal. Christ is Risen; Truly He is Risen!

Most Rev. Héctor Vila
Bishop of Whitehorse