

12<sup>th</sup> April 2020

## Easter

**“A rising tide lifts all boats.”**

*20<sup>th</sup> century US proverb, associated with the Kennedy family.*

The working harbour in Port Seton, the village on the Forth where I live, gives you all the evidence you need of the truth of the proverb above. Whether the incoming tide, brought by a wild gale, is a fierce one which crashes over the walls, or a gentle one, which slowly floods the inner harbour, the result is the same. The rising tide lifts all boats, large and small, up to the key-side, so that stores can be loaded, nets readied and creels prepared for the fishermen to set out to sea when the tide is right.

On this Easter Day, a day so dramatically different from any other Easter we've experienced in our lifetime, what's to be said? "The Lord is risen; He is risen indeed" will still ring out from the Christian Church – over the airwaves; in podcasts; in private homes; in the hearts of Easter people. And we give thanks to God that the Easter message is not diminished by our world in crisis – today of all days.

We may struggle to believe that, or, indeed, we may believe it in our hearts but doubt it in our minds. So, I offer you this thought ... Just as the rising tide lifts all boats, so our message of "rising" this Easter *will* be a tide that lifts us all. We may not know it, or believe it, or understand it. But the message of hope, the message that the grave will not have its victory, will raise us all up to the key-side once again.

The boats don't have to understand the rising tide to get the benefit of it. They just give themselves to the seas and they'll be lifted anyway. The rising tide *will* lift all boats – yours and mine among them.

### **A prayer for today**

*God of this Easter Day, let the promise of your rising not just be for the Church to celebrate, but let it also be for me. Raise me up. Set me straight. Make me ready. Give me hope. Lift me high. Prepare me to set sail again when the tide is right. Amen.*

*An original reflection by © Tom Gordon*

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