

MONMOUTHSHIRE **45p** Wednesday, March 9, 2016

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Dear Friends,

My Easter message this year is not what perhaps you might expect by way of a Scriptural reference to the rising from dead of our Saviour Jesus Christ, however triumphant and assuring that message is for all of us.

Rather, I want to share with you the value of a something as 'simple' as a smile, as in a world of so much uncertainty and danger, we cannot and should not but smile when we recognize that already the victory is won.

I share it with because Jesus on the cross in his dying moments still had time with a smile to hand over the apostle John to the loving care of Jesus' own mother Mary, and to ask Mary to consider John as her own son too. This is what many of us would have remembered on Mothering Sunday, and surely enough to make us smile with gratitude.

And here is what I believe we are asked to do in return for that knowledge and privilege, not just at Easter time, but throughout the year:

THE VALUE OF A SMILE

A smile costs nothing, but means so much. It enriches those who receive it, without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts a lifetime.

No one is so rich or mighty that one can get along without it and no one is so poor but would be richer for its benefits.

A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in business and is the trademark of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged and sunshine to the sad.

Some people are too tired to smile. Give them one of yours, for nobody needs a smile so much as one who has none left to give.

I cannot remember where or even when I first read these words, but I know it was decades ago. To me they are appropriate to the times we live in now, and I can but offer them to you this Easter time.

God bless you, and take care, and to just slightly paraphrase **STRICTLY - Keep Smiling!**

Rev Preben Andersen

Thought for the weak



with the Rev Preben Andersen