

EASTER BLESSINGS

By John O'Donohue

"On this Easter morning, let us look again at the lives we have been so generously given and let us let fall away the useless baggage that we carry -- old pains, old habits, old ways of seeing and feeling -- and let us have the courage to begin again. Life is very short, and we are no sooner here than it is time to depart again, and we should use to the full, the time that we still have.

We don't realize all the good we can do. A kind, encouraging word or helping hand can bring many a person through dark valleys in their lives. We weren't put here to make money or to acquire status or reputation. We were sent here to search for the light of Easter in our hearts, and when we find it, we are meant to give it away generously.

May the spirit and light of this Easter morning and the special spirit and light of this abbey (*at Corcomroe*) bless us all, watch over us and protect us on our journey, open us from the darkness into the light of peace and hope and *transfiguration* (transformation)."

*John O'Donohue shared this poem, **Easter Blessings**, on a Easter morning at the ancient 12th century ruins of Corcomroe Abbey in western Ireland.*

***John O'Donohue** (January 1, 1956 - January 4, 2008) was an Irish poet, author, priest, and philosopher. He was a native Irish speaker and known for his Celtic spirituality. He was a Catholic priest for 19 years and left the priesthood because of disagreements with their hierarchy. Throughout his life, he retained and shared his deep spirituality. His poetry often was in the form of blessings which had spiritual depth and focus on beauty, memory and hope.*

