



OUR LADY OF REPARATION RC CHURCH

(ST MARY'S)

70 Wellesley Road, West Croydon CR0 2AR
Tel: 02086881857 Email: croydonwest@rcaos.org.uk
Website: www.saint-mary.org.uk

Fr Patrick Feyisetan (Parish Priest)

Fr Michael Etuka (Assistant Priest)

Fr Sylvester Oyeka, CSSp (Assistant Priest)

Revd. Vincent Morrison (Deacon)

SUNDAY MASS TIMES: 7:00pm (Saturday); 8am, 9:15am; 10:45am; 12:15pm, 3:00pm & 6:00pm

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES: 10am; 12:10pm & 6.45pm Saturday: 10am

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Wednesday 12:45pm – 6:30pm; Sat. 10:45am – 12noon; Sun. 4pm-5.30pm

CONFESSION: Saturday from 10:30-11:30am; 6pm and at call. **ROSARY:** 11.30am (Monday—Friday)

PARISH SURGERY: Every Tuesday and Friday: 9:00am to 12:30pm and 2:00pm to 4:30pm



25th December 2022

MASS AT DAWN

ENTRANCE: O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels:

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created:

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest:

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesu, to thee be glory given!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing!

Gloria:

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of
the Father, have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Collect

Grant we pray, almighty God that, as we are bathed
in
the new radiance of your incarnate Word, the light of
faith, which illumines our minds, may also shine

through in our deeds. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First reading **Isaiah 62:11-12**

This the Lord proclaims
to the ends of the earth:
Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Look,
your saviour comes,
the prize of his victory with him,
his trophies before him.'
They shall be called 'The Holy People',
'The Lord's Redeemed.'
And you shall be called 'The-sought-after',
'City-not-forsaken.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 96(97):1,6,11-12**

R. This day new light will shine upon the earth: the Lord is born for us.

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,
let all the coastlands be glad.
The skies proclaim his justice;
all peoples see his glory. *R.*

Light shines forth for the just
and joy for the upright of heart.
Rejoice, you just, in the Lord;
give glory to his holy name. *R.*

Second reading **Titus 3:4-7**

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! **Lk2:14**

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to men who enjoy his favour.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Luke 2:15-20**

Now when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.' So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard

and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

The Gospel of the Lord

Homily

The Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only-Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
(let us kneel)

For us men and for our salvation
He came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary
and became man.

(let us stand)

For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate.
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins,
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

OFFERTORY:

IN THE BLEAK MID WINTER

In the bleak mid-winter
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him

nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;
enough for Him, whom angels
fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air,
But only His mother in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the beloved With a kiss.

What can I give Him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
if I were a wise man
I would do my part,
yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.

O LITTLE TOWN

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth,
for Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels
keep their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still
the dear Christ enters in.

Where children pure and happy
pray to the blessed Child,
where misery cries out to thee,

son of the mother mild;
where charity stands watching
and faith holds wide the door,
the dark night waits, the glory breaks,
and Christmas comes once more.

O holy Child of Bethlehem
descend to us, we pray
cast out our sin and enter in
be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
our Lord Emmanuel

COMMUNION: WHAT CHILD IS THIS

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
come, greet the infant Lord,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and donkeys are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spears shall pierce him through,
the cross he bore for me, for you:
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
the Virgin sings her lullaby:
joy, joy for Christ is born,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

2. INFANT LOWLY

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
nowells ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new,
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you.
Christ the babe was born for you.

RECESSIONAL: HARK THE HERALD

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

PARISH PRIEST'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Beloved people of God, here we are again celebrating Christmas, that wonderful season of grace when everyone aligns with the festive mood the season brings to share joy and gifts as we make merriment, eat and drink in the blistering winter weather. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus, the Son of the eternal Father who was born in time for us, sharing in our humanity through the mystery of his incarnation, to enable us to participate fully in the life of God. The coming of Jesus the anointed of God was foretold by the prophets. Every year the season of Advent enables us to listen again and ponder on the various oracles proclaiming the coming in distant future of the Star of Jacob whose entry into our world would usher an era of peace, justice, and love, leading to the joy of redemption. The baby born at Bethlehem reconciles God and sinful humanity, restoring what was lost at Eden through his self-giving sacrificial death and his glorious resurrection. He sets us free still through the ministering of healing graces to us in the Sacraments

of the Church. What shall we give to him who has done so much for us as we recall his first coming into our world and as we prepare for his eventual return?

Our celebration of Jesus' birthday calls for sober reflection amidst the noises, difficulties, disappointments, insufficiencies, strife, and sufferings experienced daily. This year has been particularly difficult for many families. Austerity is biting hard. More people lose their jobs and livelihood daily. The lyrics of Sr Miriam Therese Winter's (b 1938) *Christ, Come Quickly* comes to mind: 'the sick go unattended, death deals a heavy hand, the dreams of men are empty, their cup of sorrow full.' These daily realities that are a global phenomenon are created and fuelled by our selfishness and lack of sensitivity towards the needs of peoples. Migrants still die at sea; the blows of the pandemic remain unhealed; nations are in turmoil; Ukraine is in darkness caused by war; my beloved Africa and many nations under the siege of heartless individuals who steal the commonwealth and leave nothing for the commoners; politicians are creating ideologies devoid of compassion and lacking human façade, and hopelessness becomes the air that is breathe by all. Yet we must not become despondent for our pondering on the mysteries of Christmas should make us recourse to Jesus to restore the light of hope that this hardship of the present time shall not go on forever.

This is what Christmas does! It restores hope and recreates in us the beauty and joy of knowing, loving, and serving Jesus. This message must not fly past us. It must sink into us as we make a pledge to make the world a better place and create in us the consciousness to make recourse to God in thanksgiving for the gift of his beloved Son to us as we pledge to be as selfless as Jesus the heaven-born Prince of Peace and the son of righteousness who brings light and life to all. That is the essence of Christmas, and Christmas is the reason why we are Christians. May our celebration this year and indeed our daily living of the Gospel of Jesus make us light and make us shine enough to dispel all that challenges peace, justice, harmony, hope and love in our world. Have a blessed Christmas and a New Year ahead filled with God's refreshing graces.

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