



Parish Priest
Fr. Patrick Feyisetan

Easter Message 2020



Our Lady of Reparation
(St. Mary's RC Church, West Croydon)

Beloved people of God,

Beloved people of God, Easter is here again! Alleluia! Easter is a season like no other; it resounds the foundation of our faith and the restoration of our relationship with God. It is a time for great rejoicing and that is why the liturgy of Easter begins by proclaiming the Exultet—one of the most beautiful hymns ever composed to the honour of God.

This ancient hymn highlights the spectacle that Jesus' resurrection is. The reality of the love of the Father for us who when we were dead because of sin, Christ, the Son of God leads us to grace, breaking the barriers of sin and death and rising from the dead. By this unique action of his rising from the dead, darkness is vanquished; sin is washed away; Satan is defeated; Heaven is now wedded to the earth again and sanctifying grace is restored to us which has been lost in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve sinned.

This, beloved in Christ is the foundation of our faith. For as Scripture says: "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is useless, you are still in your sins" (1 Cor. 15:17). And in another passage of Scripture St Paul says: "but we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus" (Rom 6:8-11).

This is the reason for our rejoicing in spite of the lockdown response to the pandemic. The coronavirus situation has brought with it certain ugly realities of death, isolation, fear, anxiety, sickness and pain. It has come upon us just as Lent began and made the penitential season such a lengthy period. But we Christian people have been able to accept this length of time as a period of grace for us to grow in holiness of life, faith in God, charity towards others, trust in the ability of God to save us and a time to be more conscious of the reason God made us and put us in this world. Now, here we are at the feast of Light. God says to us: "Do not be afraid" (Matt 28:5). "I am with you always" (Matt 28: 20).

Our Lord Jesus Christ is with us and will forever be present in our midst. He is true to his promise. He is alive. Even now, he wants to meet us where we live. He wants to find a dwelling there. He wants to entrust us with a mission of making his presence known and experienced by everyone.

Let us therefore rejoice and be glad for Easter is here and darkness shall vanish forever. Alleluia!!!

Fr. Patrick