



Parish Priest

Fr. Patrick
Feyisetan

Easter
Message



The Risen Lord



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

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! The Easter praises fill the atmosphere once again! The first properly celebrated Easter festival since 2019. The raging pandemic of the last years didn't leave us the chance of getting together in the manner we are doing this year. It was not because we feared death or dying but because we love and value the precious gift of life that God shares with us, and which Christ our Lord has enhanced by his saving death and glorious resurrection. Death in fact has lost its sting since he dared to sting the only begotten Son of God. It was a trap he couldn't but get itself into since it's the biggest bait ever God threw at it. Jesus, the Son of God, the paschal lamb, tender, innocent and without blemish is sacrificed to set us free from the bondage of sin and death, so we can be wedded back to God whom we have offended by our disobedience and unfaithfulness.

Brothers and sisters, it is time for us to rejoice as we raise our voices in thanksgiving to God for getting into battle with death even when he knew that for a moment death was going to laugh in victory, albeit a victory that was momentary! Death couldn't eat up its bait. It couldn't even destroy him or hold him down. For the Son of God broke all the fetters and rose in victory from the tomb. The gospel text we read tonight from Luke tells how the women were terrified to find the tomb empty of its occupant. 'He is not here; he has risen,' said the two angels who appeared to them. Those women became the first heralds of this angelic message, a message that many find very hard to believe; even Jesus' apostles expressed a measure of incredulity. Shall we blame them? They were witnessing

something that never happened before, even when Jesus had told them severally of his coming death and resurrection. The bit about death and dying they could understand; they just couldn't get their heads around the story of the empty tomb.

What does the empty tomb really mean for us? Do we also find it difficult to connect with? May be not, but doesn't the kind of life we live point in the direction that we do not yet come to terms with the fact that God does not abandon anyone who is faithful to his cause? Yes, and indeed, that is the message from the empty tomb: that because Jesus is faithful to the will of God to the very end, and never doubted that God would be his refuge and strength especially in his anguish and suffering, God came to his assistance; for God would not let darkness vanquish the light, sin triumph over righteousness, evil obliterate the good, as Satan cannot conquer God. To God, therefore, be all glory, praises, adoration, power and might, for setting us free through his Son, opening the doors of Paradise to us once again, and making us his beloved children.

As we share the joy of this Easter feast with one another, let us keep in mind that the show of love for us by God demands a full measure of commitment on our part. We must take after Christ who leads this victory march, in his unflinching and dedicated obedience to the will of God in all the events of life. As we do this, our lives must preach and witness to Christ's victory, always keeping Christ alive in us. He must remain alive in us through prayer, acts of kindness, our work for justice, promotion of the dignity of the human person and the building up of our communities. This is what Evangelization is about: witnessing Christ to everyone by our way of life.

I thank you all for your commitment to faith in our parish community as I enjoy you to keep the banner of Christ flying. On behalf of all of us in the parish, I welcome and congratulate Robert, Caroline and Maureen who have joined the full communion of the Catholic Church. I also congratulate Gladys, Beryl, and Maureen on their Confirmation. I wish everyone a very happy Easter.

Fr. Patrick Feyisetan