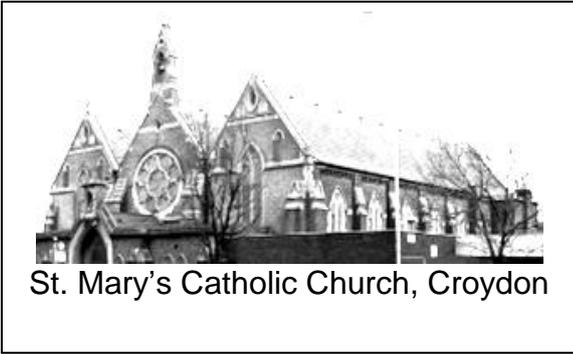


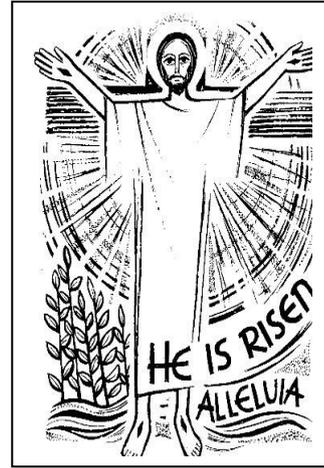
Fr. Michael



St. Mary's Catholic Church, Croydon

writes... 

Easter Message 2017



Welcome to St. Mary's & Happy Easter !

I hope you have had a good spiritual journey through the Season of Lent and into Holy Week. Road works outside our Church have made life difficult for many over these past days. It is good that they are completed. Thank you Lord !

It is Easter. Let the Alleluias be sung as we celebrate the great event of the Resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Having completed our 40 days of Lent by which we prepared to celebrate worthily the Paschal Mystery, we now enter the Easter Season in which the Church rejoices at the victory of Jesus over sin and death. We are invited to enter more fully into the life of grace that has been given us through our Baptism. As St. Paul reminds us, "we were indeed buried with Him through Baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we grow into union with Him through a death like His, we shall be united with Him in the Resurrection" (Romans 6: 4 – 5).

For the next 50 days, the Church celebrates the Easter event and we are asked to renew our efforts to live the life Jesus has won for us through His Suffering and Death on the Cross. Jesus asks us to allow Him to live in us and, through our participation in this resurrected life, to build up His Kingdom in our world today.

In unity with my brother clergy in the parish, I ask you to allow the joyful hope we share in Christ Jesus to be evermore evident in the way you practice your Faith during the Easter Season. Be motivated to follow the Lord more closely by the joy of knowing that your eternal destiny has been secured by Christ. Do not be afraid to give a defense to those who ask about the joy you have in knowing Jesus and allow that joy to permeate your daily activities. It is important that the world is able to see the face of Jesus at this moment in time. For it is the Lord, risen from the dead who desires to be present to this bruised and broken world, through you.

Your Christian and Catholic life gives witness that Christ is alive and at work in the world today. By living the Gospel values that the Lord teaches and by allowing His love to permeate all your actions, you and I can join our voices with those of the first Disciples by acclaiming, “the Lord is Risen!”

May this Easter Season be one of great blessings and graces for you and your loved ones. We ask that the richness of God’s love will find a place in those who join us in the Catholic Faith at the Easter Vigil. Welcome, welcome into our Catholic Family!

May the Peace of the Lord, given to the Apostles on that first Easter night, reign in your hearts, in your families and your homes.

Fr. Michael Scanlon
Parish Priest