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HAPPY EASTER



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain.” (1Cor 15:14)

Happy Easter! Let us rejoice and be glad because the Lord has truly risen in his flesh and body! The Lord had said that he would rise again on the third day and he did it. In the history of the world, there is no one who rose from the dead, but Christ did rise from the well-guarded tomb to prove to the world that he is truly the second person of the Trinity. He is God who saves us from sin and damnation and opens the gates of salvation offering to those who believe in him eternal life, a life in abundance. Easter or Pascha or the Resurrection of Christ is the life-line of our faith as Christians. Undoubtedly, Easter is the assurance of our own resurrection. For Jesus assured Martha: *I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me will live even though he dies.* (Jn 11:25) Jesus indeed reminds us, by his own resurrection that we are not made for this world but for eternal life. Yes, it is highly significant to note that God is the ultimate end of our life. God, who alone can give us perfect peace and happiness, firmly desires that we seek life in His Son Jesus than in the transitory pleasures and consolations of this world. That's why, St. Francis de Sales insists that we must seek not the consolations of God (momentary graces like riches, positions etc.) but God of consolations. In other words, when we devoutly seek God, He brings with Him all the blessings that we really need. When the Risen Christ appeared in the midst of the disciples, who were so frightened and hiding themselves for the fear of life, and said to them, peace be with you, and conferred them with the gift of the Holy Spirit, he alleviated all their fears and worldly concerns and gave them the much-needed courage and confidence to go out and proclaim the Gospel of Christ

fearlessly thereafter. Cardinal Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI) writes thus: “Faith gives joy. When God is not there, the world becomes desolate and everything becomes boring and everything is completely unsatisfactory.” St. Francis de Sales too says:

Our God is a God of love. It is because of His love for the humanity, He chose to save them from sin and offers us life everlasting. St. John asserts quite vividly this fact as he writes:

(Jn 3: 16)

St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians stresses:

Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus

(15: 55-56) The resurrection of Jesus gives us the hope that we too will rise one day and inherit the eternal reward that God promises to His believers. Let our hearts turn towards heavenward and live according to the Gospel of Christ. To conclude, let us celebrate this great feast of Easter with deep faith and immense joy, because, Jesus our Saviour vividly reveals that life does not end in the grave, but comes to fulfilment in the eternal life of Christ. I wish to conclude this short reflection with the beautiful words of St. Francis de Sales: “Whoever has risen to the new life of the Saviour does not live any longer to self, in self or for self. But he lives to his Saviour and for

(TLG VII, Ch. 7) He also insists: “Our life is no longer ours but belongs to the one who gained it for us by his death. We should live no longer for ourselves but to him: not in
(TLG VII, Ch. 8)

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection (Year B)

Date & Time			Place	Masses Requested	Saints & Feasts
Sat	30 th Mar	8.00pm	St. Peter’s		The Great Paschal Vigil and First Mass of Easter
Sun	31 st Mar	9.00am 11.00am	St. Michael’s St. Peter’s	Kathryn Int. Mia Int., Bessie Blaney RIP	Mass of Easter Morning Mass of Easter Morning
Mon	1 st April		No Mass		Monday within the Octave of Easter
Tue	2 nd April		No Mass		Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
Wed	3 rd April		No Mass		Wednesday within the Octave of Easter
Thu	4 th April		No Mass		Thursday within the Octave of Easter
Fri	5 th April		No Mass		Friday within the Octave of Easter

A Warm Welcome: today Sunday 31st March; on Sunday of the Resurrection as always, we welcome visitors and newcomers to join our “regulars,” asking Almighty God to bestow His blessings and graces on us all. You are most welcome to join us for coffee and tea in the Parish Hall. Are you sure there’s nothing else an excitable

Christmas and Easter offerings go towards the upkeep and maintenance of the priest in the parish. Here are ways you can make this offering: you can write a cheque made payable to ‘Fr. Mariaselvan’, or you can also insert cash into any envelope or ones kept at the church porch for this purpose, then post it through Presbytery door, alternatively bring with you when you attend any of the services during the Holy Week or any other mass and put in the collection bags. You can also use our Dona payment machine at the back of the church in St. Peter’s.

Newman Association: There will be a talk on Tuesday 2nd April at 2.00pm, in the lounge of Sacred Hearts Hall, Charlton Kings GL53 9AU-Rev Duncan Munro is a non-stipendiary minister and a Councillor on Charlton Kings Village Council. He will introduce us to the life and work of Rev. Mascall and speak on the subject of his dissertation: Nature, Grace and Glory in the Theology of E.L. Mascall.

Diocesan Pilgrimage: There are still vacancies to join the Clifton Pilgrimage to Lourdes at the end of August. If you are interested, please go to Lourdes@cliftondiocese.com

Invited A twelve-week course will enable us to explore a variety of questions relating to Catholic Teaching in Stroud. Please see the poster on the notice board for further information.

Essential Training for Catechists: Light of Truth a course via Zoom commences 11th April via the Clifton Diocese website. Please see poster for further information.

Website: A volunteer from each parish is needed for updating the website as a backup for Brian should he not be available. Training, assistance etc. will be given as necessary. Please contact Brian or Fr. Maria if you are willing to take on this role.

For the Attention of St. Michael's: Work is due to start on the old presbytery next to the church hall. Scaffolding will be in use behind the house adjacent to the church hall. It should not have any impact on accessing the hall but please be careful especially if workmen are on the scaffolding. Some equipment might be in the yard behind the garage door.

Offertory Collection: Last Week: St. Peter's: £467.26 (incl. via Dona Machine), St. Michael's: £178.42
Flowers: St. Peter's £229.33 (incl. via Dona Machine), St. Michael's £26.50



