

*"Rejoice, Jerusalem."*

Rejoice, Europe, rejoice, England, rejoice, Great Britain. *Be glad for her, all you who love her, all you who mourned her!*

*Cry out with joy to God all the earth.* Waiting and gnashing of teeth, loss of confidence and loss of hope seem to be more the order of the day in this new post-Brexit world of ours. How are we to sing Zion's songs in a foreign land? How can we turn our mourning into rejoicing? How can we be suckled once more by those consoling breasts of love and peace?

The answer is staring us in the face but we are too scared to accept it, too scared to take it on board, too scared to make it the guiding principle of our lives. The answer *is the cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ through whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. It does not matter if a person is circumcised or not; if they are in or out, European or English, Conservative or Labour, political or apolitical. What matters is... to become an altogether new creature.*

Our political system is broken, our sense of community is broken, our sense of well-being is broken, not because of Brexit but because of our failure *to boast about the cross of Christ.*

For the good of our own souls, for the good of our world, this living out of the crucifixion must be a daily experience, this being crucified to the world and the world to me, must be our daily bread. Every day we must be born again. Every day we must become a new creature embracing God's world, embracing His will for each one of us.

*"The harvest is rich but the labourers are few."* People are crying out for a message of hope, crying out for those consoling breasts, crying out for security and peace. It is our failure as Christians to present that message, our failure to live that message that is ultimately responsible for the situation in which we currently find ourselves.

But Jesus is sending us into that harvest once more *"Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals"*. Travel light. Leave your baggage behind. *"Whatever house you go into, let your first words be 'Peace to this house'."* This is our mission – to seek out people of peace wherever they may be, to share with them the suffering and death of Jesus, in partnership with our brothers and sisters everywhere, to become on a daily basis *an altogether new creature. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule...the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.*

Fr Michael