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EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD - YR A

**11TH & 12TH APRIL,
2020**

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSS

Easter is the season of mystagogical catechesis, that instruction that unpacks the hidden mystery of the experience of the sacraments of initiation received or renewed at Easter. The readings of each Sunday concentrate on some aspect of this mystery. The central theme of this Sunday is newness of life in Christ. This newness is not without its historical context. It burst forth first in the resurrection of Christ, and then through the preaching of the first Christians.

The readings testify that if we die with Christ, we will appear with him in glory; if we cast out the old yeast, we will be fresh dough. And when this wondrous transformation takes place, everything is new; everything is fresh. To what newness are we called? To what must we die in order to rise transformed? What old yeast of corruption must be cast out in order that we might be fresh dough? At Easter we renew our baptismal vows. What is it that we really renounce? Ours is a world of violence, of prejudice, of indifference. Too often we harbour feelings of anger and resentment, of selfishness and disdain. Easter proclaims that Christ has died and has risen; with him we die to all of the wickedness in our lives and in our world, and we set our hearts on higher things, on sincerity and on truth.



Historical Context – Mary Magdalene

Mary Magdalene, or Mary of Magdala, plays an important role in the gospel accounts of the resurrection. She was obviously a significant follower of Jesus, being named as a witness to the crucifixion, discovering the empty tomb and the first to encounter the risen Christ. One would think that she would hold a prestigious place in the Church, but for many years she was confused with another character identified in the gospels and was portrayed as a prostitute and sinner. Mary is named in each of the four gospels and not once is it indicated that she was a sinner or prostitute. She has been a victim of mistaken identity for 2000 years.

Greg Sunter

WEEKDAY & SUNDAY MASSES

**Masses & Adoration
have been suspended
until further notice.**

**Fr Christopher is privately
celebrating Mass each day
and will continue to pray
for all parishioners.**

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Deacon Owen Rogers
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Mrs Sue Weekes - Office Support
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**Mrs Joanne Hocking - Sacrament
Support**

SCHOOLS OF THE PARISH:

Corpus Christi Primary – ph 4726 2200
(Principal - Mrs Sarah O'Rourke)

Xavier College – ph 4777 0900
(Principal - Mr Michael Pate)

The Living Word

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

12 April 2020

First Reading

Acts 10:34. 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24

(R.) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

or

(R.) Alleluia.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.' **(R.)**
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. **(R.)**
3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. **(R.)**



Second Reading

Col 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

or

1 Cor 5:6-8

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Throw away the old yeast, that you may be new dough.

You must know how even a small amount of yeast is enough to leaven all the dough, so get rid of all the old yeast, and make yourselves into a completely new batch of bread, unleavened as you are meant to be. Christ, our passover, has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast, then, by getting rid of all the old yeast of evil and wickedness, having only the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Gospel Acclamation

1 Cor 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 20:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

or

Mt 28:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee.

After the Sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake, for the angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him, that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him." Now I have told you.' Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell the disciples.

And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings,' he said. And the women came up to him and, falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.'

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*As we celebrate Easter, we wish you the gift of
new life and hope that the
Resurrection of Christ represents.*



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Dawn has Broken – The Son is Risen

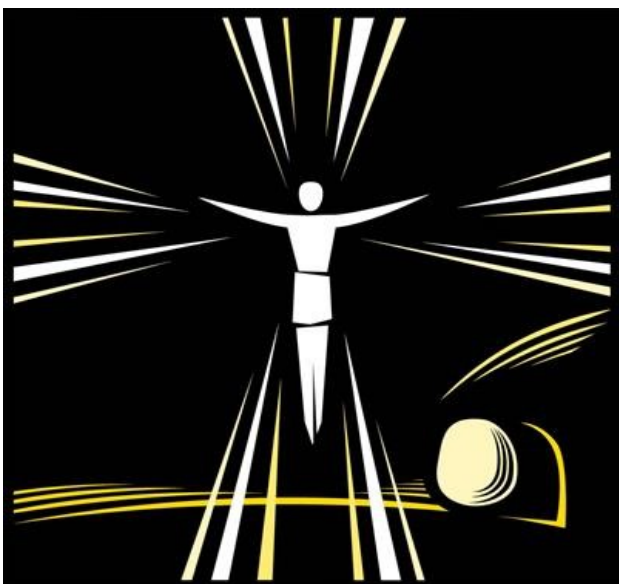
Women go to the tomb as dawn is breaking. The Power of Darkness which had Jesus unjustly sentenced, cruelly tortured and buried in the pitch blackness of the tomb, is conquered by the Son-Rise of all sun rises flooding our world and the whole of human history with Divine Light and Energy.

This is the heart of our faith as Catholic Christians, which we celebrate with bon-fire (good fire) in darkness at the Easter Vigil. From that earthly element we light the Easter candle and the Exsultet is sung: 'Be glad, let earth be glad as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King.'

The resurrection itself is nowhere described in the gospels, but we do have appearances of the Risen Lord Jesus. The first appearance was to a woman, Mary of Magdala. A title given to her by the early church was 'Apostle to the Apostles' because she was the bearer of the message which the male disciples initially did not believe. But eventually they too believed that Death had been done to death because the Son had risen.

Christ's body was transfigured by the energy of Divine Love and we can, by grace, participate in that resurrection life of Our Lord. A glorious destiny awaits us, as indeed it awaits the whole cosmos as it is to be transformed by that resurrection life recreating the whole of creation.

We could take a moment to pray that we, along with all that matters, are graced with the life-giving energy of the Risen Son and that we may join Mary of Magdala in spreading the Good News of Christ's victory over death. Alleluia!



HOLY WEEK MASSES WITH BISHOP VINCENT YOU ARE INVITED TO WATCH HOLY WEEK MASSES (LIVESTREAMED) WITH BISHOP VINCENT.

For further information please visit the Diocesan website (www.parracatholic.org) or the St Patrick's Cathedral website (<https://stpatscathedral.com.au/>) for details on how to watch the Masses.

The Masses will be streamed live on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/user/ParramattaDiocese) (www.youtube.com/user/ParramattaDiocese) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/parracatholic) (www.facebook.com/parracatholic).

HOLY WEEK RESOURCES

The Office for Worship has created Holy Week resources that are available for use. Please feel welcome to use them:

- * Holy Week Resources Material (download) - <https://tinyurl.com/holyweekresources>
- * Holy Week Resources Material (flipbook) - <https://www.yumpu.com/s/kR9Cu2FfZMD67zHS>
- * Holy Week Family Activities (download) - <https://tinyurl.com/holyweekfamilyactivities>
- * Holy Week Family Activities (flipbook) - <https://www.yumpu.com/s/kgAz2sL4YJ3SwTyN>

They are also available at www.parracatholic.org/covid-19

REFLECTION FOR ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS Questions for Adolescents

- * What emotions do you think Mary might have experienced upon discovering the tomb?
- * Why did the gospel writers portray the disciples' initial disbelief and doubt about the resurrection?
- * What Christian belief/s flow from the resurrection of Jesus?
- * In what ways does the account of Jesus' resurrection inspire hope in Christians?
- * In what ways is Jesus still present in the world?

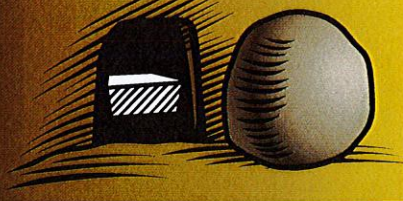
Questions for Adults

- * Why is the passion, death and resurrection central to Christian belief?
- * What message do you take from the beloved disciple who 'saw and believed'?
- * Does the significance of the Easter events receive proper recognition in society today?
- * Why do you think the cross became the symbol of Christianity, rather than the empty tomb?

***This is an opportunity for parents to discuss today's
Gospel with your children.***

***The following questions and worksheet are a beginning
point to assist with the discussion.***

- ◆ What do you have that is new?
- ◆ How do you feel when you have something new?
- ◆ Today, Easter Sunday, is exciting because we celebrate Jesus' rising and living among us.
- ◆ How can we show that Jesus lives within us in a new way?

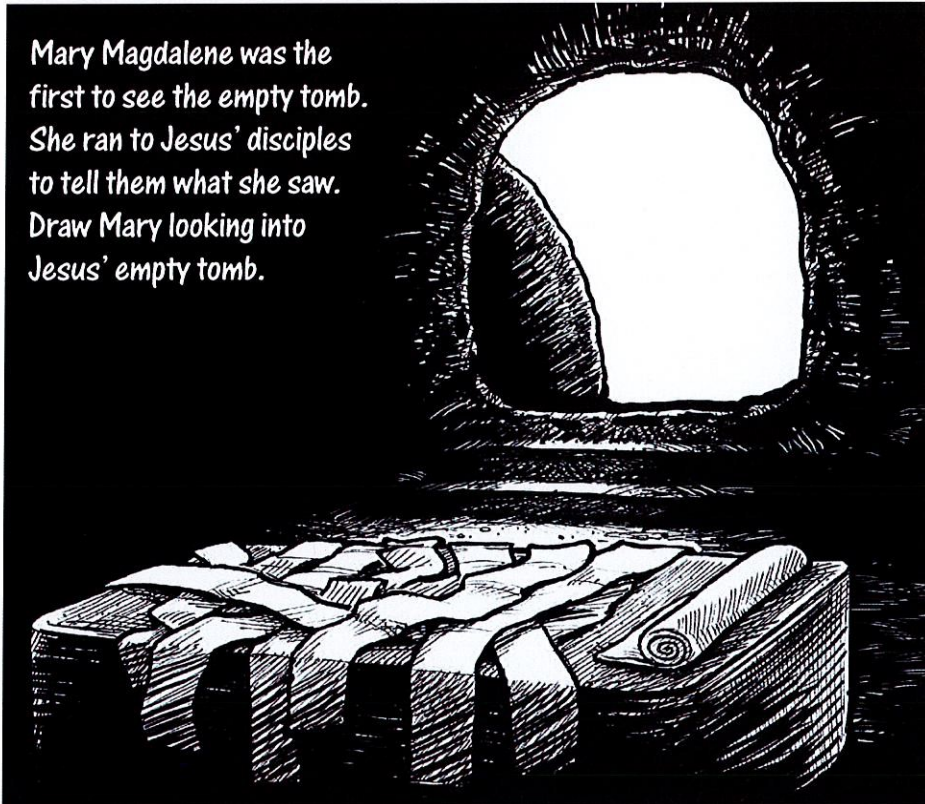


He is risen! Alleluia!

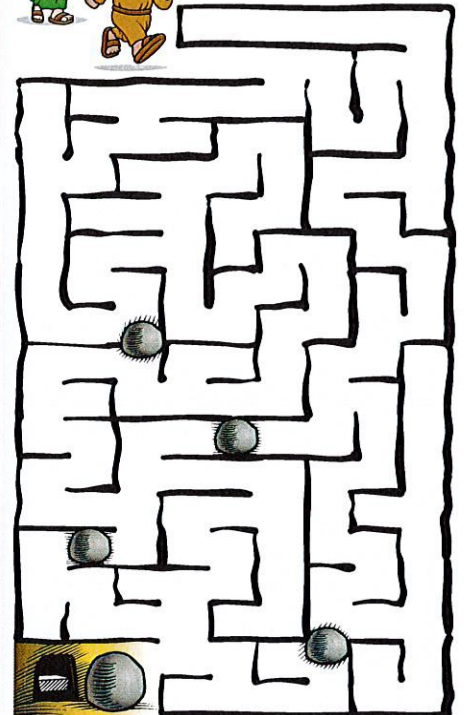


Easter Sunday

Mary Magdalene was the first to see the empty tomb. She ran to Jesus' disciples to tell them what she saw. Draw Mary looking into Jesus' empty tomb.



Help the disciples find their way to Jesus' empty tomb.



This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice!



What can you do to make people glad today?

Fill in the missing words below to find out what the letters in the boxes spell.

Mary M	<input type="text"/>	_____ went to the tomb.
"They have taken the	<input type="text"/>	_____ from the tomb", she said.
Peter was a d_____	<input type="text"/>	_____ of Jesus.
The other disciple ran f_____	<input type="text"/>	_____ than Peter.
He saw the strips of	<input type="text"/>	_____ cloth lying inside the tomb.
B _____	<input type="text"/>	_____ he did not go in.
When he saw	<input type="text"/>	_____ he believed.
The Scriptures s _____	<input type="text"/>	_____ Jesus would rise to life.

Parish Office Hours

During this time of church closure the Parish Office will remain open. You are welcome to telephone or email. At this stage, our operating hours have not been formalised, so please leave a message if we don't answer the phone and we'll get back to you.

Please note that the office will close on Wednesday afternoon (8th April) for the Easter period.

Project Compassion

Please call Caritas directly on 1800 024 413 or visit <https://lent.caritas.org.au/> for information on how to return your Project Compassion boxes or to make a credit card donation.

Or, if you prefer, you can hold on to your Project Compassion boxes until after Easter, at which time the Diocese will advise how the donations can be collected.



Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia!

Thank you for supporting us this year as we demonstrate how love and compassion for our global community can transform lives. You will be helping to empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and share their strengths with their communities to lift themselves out of poverty. When we **Go Further Together** in love and compassion, the whole world thrives.

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www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion #projectcompassion 1800 024 413

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PADRE PIO PARISH CHURCH	Glenmore Park Parish	Streaming through Facebook – https://www.facebook.com/gsk2223
HOLY FAMILY CHURCH	Granville East Parish	Recording and then posting onto Parish YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc-5ODOaRZE0yprZwqatAeA) example - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8ShYXiOoB0
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH	Granville Parish	Recording and then posting onto Parish YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc-5ODOaRZE0yprZwqatAeA) example - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8ShYXiOoB0
ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH	Kingswood Parish	Recording/streaming through YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCljip15JI6H8TrHkEB6ISdw/featured
ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE CHURCH	Marayong Parish	Streaming through Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/standrewsmarayong/
ST MARGARET MARY'S CHURCH	Merrylands Parish	Recording/streaming through YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6FezbQbHtu-MSyWUSnaAcA
ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA CHURCH	Penrith Parish	Streaming through Facebook Live - https://www.facebook.com/SNOMPenrith/
THE GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH	Plumpton Parish	Streaming through Facebook Live - https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdparishplumpton/ https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdparishplumpton/videos/163690304720839/
OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS CHURCH	Rouse Hill Parish	Streaming through Facebook Live https://www.facebook.com/150713848317487/videos/835921950226114/
OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH	Seven Hills Parish	Streamed Mass over weekend to Facebook Live https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/videos/206449013914284/
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHURCH	St Marys Parish	Streamed to Facebook https://www.facebook.com/OLRparishstmarys/

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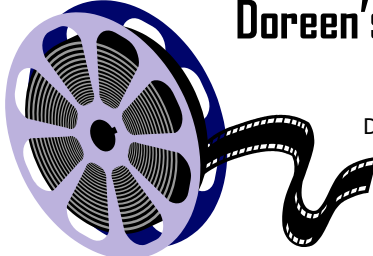
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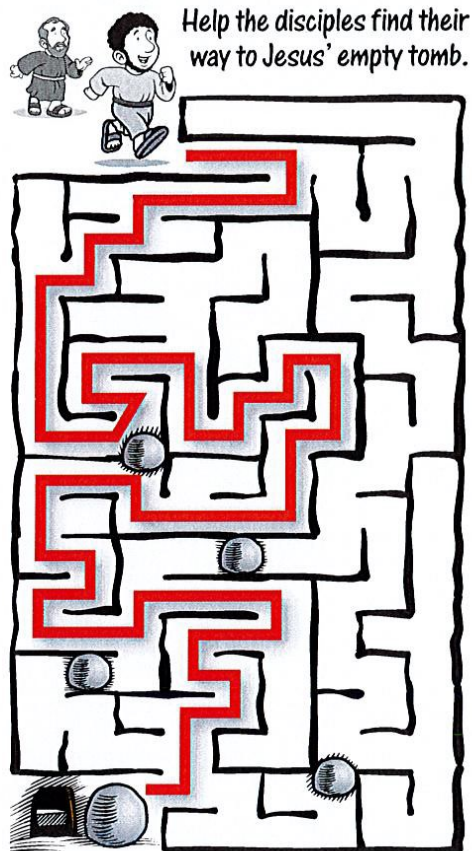
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Solutions to Children's Worksheet

Easter Sunday



Fill in the missing words below to find out what the letters in the boxes spell.

Mary M **A** g d a l e n e went to the tomb.

"They have taken the **L** o r d from the tomb", she said.

Peter was a di s c i p **L** e of Jesus.

The other disciple ran f a s t **E** r than Peter.

He saw the strips of **L** i n e n cloth lying inside the tomb.

B **A** t he did not go in.

When he saw **I** t he believed.

The Scriptures s **A** i d Jesus would rise to life.