

Easter Sunday - April 9 2023

Acknowledgment of Land, Seas, Skies and Waterways

We acknowledge the First Nations peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work. We pay our respect to the Elders past, present, and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of First Nations peoples across the nation. We acknowledge the deep spiritual attachment and relationship of First Nations peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

Context- Easter Sunday, Mass During the Day

The Easter Vigil is about the anticipation of the Resurrection and today, it is all about the Resurrection itself. During Lent, we have been called to return to God and trust in the Good News and now in Easter, we contemplate the Good News of the Resurrection.

Scripture: John 20:1-9

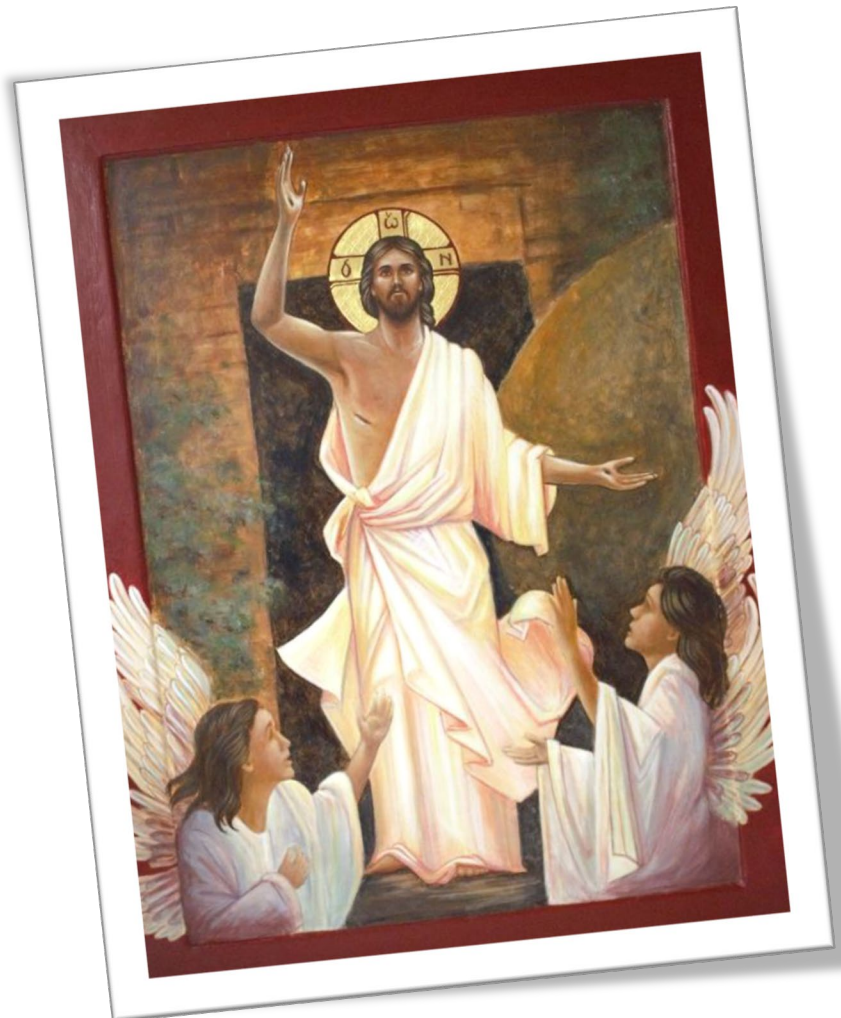
The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.

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, 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.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Tenth Station, The Way of the Cross by Suzanne Orchison (14 March 2023) and displayed in St Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral, Goulbourn NSW.

Reflection by Kirby Will Project Officer Identity and Outreach.

Mary of Magdala arrived at the tomb of Jesus and was faced with an unexpected situation. Often when we are faced with unexpected situations we deal with the situation as it is before us and do not necessarily recall any additional information we may have about it. Mary, along with the disciples, had heard Jesus say on several occasions that he would rise from the dead, yet this information does not register with Mary as she is faced with the empty tomb. She is stunned by the empty tomb and confused as to why it would be empty. However, all it takes for Mary to realise that Jesus has risen, and she is in fact in his presence is a simple reminder.

When we are faced with situations in life that stun and confuse us, our minds often enter overdrive and begin thinking about a multitude of different things. As faithful followers of Jesus, we know that he is Risen and that he is with us always, yet in the face of the unexpected our knowledge can abandon us. Jesus is not just for fair weather, he is with us through it all even if we don't immediately recall.



Figure 1 Christ and Mary Magdalene. Fine Art. Britannica ImageQuest, Encyclopædia Britannica, 25 May 2016. quest.eb.com/images/107_3349556. Accessed 6 Apr 2023.

Prayer: *This prayer is from Holy Week at Home published by Liturgical Press.*

Loving God,

We celebrate the life and love that you proclaim and share with us.

May we know the joy of your Resurrection in our hearts

as we strive to share this joy with others.

Like Mary, Simon Peter and the beloved disciple,

may we run to spread the Good News of the life and love you share.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Call to Action:

- use this [calendar](#) to guide your family through the Easter season with activities for each day.
- here is [another calendar](#) with a range of ideas (this is from 2020, so you will need to adjust the dates for 2023)
- if you have older children, watch this [video](#) and have a discussion about the different roles Jesus had in his lifetime and what gifts He has given us.
- listen to Matt Maher's [Resurrection Day](#).

