



John 20:1-9

1 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, **2** 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 do not know where they have put him.' **3** So **Peter** set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. **4** They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than **Peter**, reached the tomb first; **5** he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. **6** **Simon Peter** who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, **7** 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. **8** Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. **9** Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Other readings: Acts 10:34, 37-43 Psalm 117 (118) Colossians 3:1-4

Each one of our four canonical gospels ends with stories of the discovery of the empty tomb and accounts of appearances of the risen Jesus. Throughout the first week of the Easter period the gospel at Mass is taken from this material. Today we read John's account of the discovery of the empty tomb. The account gives a prominent role to **Mary Magdalene**, who becomes known by Christians as 'the apostle to the apostles'. It is she who discovers the empty tomb and passes on the news. Why is it empty? She will know why when **Jesus** appears to her later in the chapter.

The disciple whom **Jesus** loves, thought to be the author of the account, is convinced of the resurrection without even seeing the risen **Jesus**. It is sufficient for him to see that the body of **Jesus** no longer lies in the tomb. The later appearance of **Jesus** to the eleven disciples will confirm what he already knows.

Christian faith proclaims: 'Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!' Without the resurrection, the real rising of **Jesus** to new life in a transformed and glorified body, there would be no good news to proclaim. The God of love is more powerful than death and sin, and God has shown this in raising **Jesus**, who became a victim of sin, to the life of the resurrection. The world is in dire need of news that is true, amid so many messages which are false, undermining and deceptive. True hope lies in the God who raised **Jesus** from the dead.

*Do I appreciate the fundamental significance of the resurrection of **Jesus**?*

Do I have the vision to see the wonders God works in each human life?

We pray for those baptised and those received into the Catholic Church this Easter.

We pray for Christians for whom the cross is a daily and painful reality, that they will know that the risen Christ is at their side.