

EASTER DAY

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Here we are, at last, on Easter Day, after what seems like a remarkably long and challenging Lent, in which we have endured being in a hostile world, perhaps even a wilderness. We are deeply aware that Easter is not quite as we usually celebrate and observe it. Most especially having no access to our churches, and the Sacraments at this time is particularly difficult. When we are again able to meet together we will CELEBRATE the Resurrection regardless of the date. That day will come, but for the moment we have to accept we really have no real idea of when.

Today's Gospel reading comes from John 20 and focuses on events early on the morning of the first day of the week, it is a familiar and well-loved story, so take some time to read it, why not sitting in the garden, if you have one and the weather is kind? First, Mary Magdalene finds the empty tomb, but then later, encounters the Risen Christ, though for reasons unknown she fails to recognise him at first. It could be as simple as her thinking he would be the last person she'd ever see alive again, and so was unable to believe the evidence of her eyes. But when Jesus speaks her name, she knows, she believes, she rejoices. Even though for some mysterious reason Jesus says "Do not hold onto me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father." And one that has a curious resonance with us in this no contact world in which we are currently living.

Mary, instead, is charged to go to the disciples and tell them the good news, she does, declaring with conviction "I have seen the Lord".

I have found a prayer, which you may wish to use as you reflect, and rejoice on the Gospel, perhaps in your own garden which will be a good stand in for the ones we normally see in Church:-

*Risen Lord Jesus, as Mary Magdalene met you in the garden
on the morning of your Resurrection,
so may we meet you today and every day:
speak to us as you spoke to her;
reveal yourself as the living Lord;
renew our hope and kindle our joy;
and send us to share the good news with others. Amen*

The night may be long, but the dawn will come.

Alleluia, Christ is Risen – he is Risen indeed – Alleluia.

In Christ's love Alice