

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS – 7TH MAY 2022

THE FIRST GLORIOUS MYSTERY – THE RESURRECTION



GO TO CONFESSION

READ THE GOSPEL OF ST JOHN 20: 1-19

And on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalen cometh early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre; and she saw the stone taken away from the sepulchre. She ran, therefore, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and saith to them: They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him. Peter therefore went out, and that other disciple, and they came to the sepulchre. And they both ran together, and that other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. And when he stooped down, he saw the linen cloths lying; but yet he went not in. Then cometh Simon Peter, following him, and went into the sepulchre, and saw the linen cloths lying, And the napkin that had been about his head, not lying with the linen cloths, but apart, wrapped up into one place. Then that other disciple also went in, who came first to the sepulchre: and he saw, and believed. For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. The disciples therefore departed again to their home. But Mary stood at the sepulchre without, weeping. Now as she was weeping, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, And she saw two angels in white, sitting, one at the head, and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been laid. They say to her: Woman, why weepest thou? She saith to them: Because they have taken away my Lord; and I know not where they have laid him. When she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing; and she knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith to her: Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, thinking it was the gardener, saith to him: Sir, if thou hast taken him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus saith to her: Mary. She turning, saith to him: Rabboni (which is to say, Master). Jesus saith to her: Do not touch me, for I am not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brethren, and say to them: I ascend to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God. Mary Magdalen cometh, and telleth the disciples: I have seen the Lord, and these things he said to me.

MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE FOR 15 MINUTES

The writers of the "Sequence of Easter" also called the "Victimae Paschali Laudes" seem to interview Mary Magdalene. "Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way." But they ask this question for us too. I wonder if there's a bit of humour that goes with this question as of course in Saint John's Gospel she does not initially see the glory of the Rising One; instead she mistakes Our Lord for the gardener. Her sorrow keeps her away from seeing with her heart that which she has already experienced in the freedom of renouncing sin and living in total union with the will of God.

Jesus spends time with his closest ones showing them the reality of the Resurrection. It's that reality which we live today yet we don't know it. In Saint Mark's Gospel, Mary Magdalene enters Christ's empty tomb "very early in the morning", and sees an Angel who instructs her and the other women to tell the disciples that Jesus will go before them into Galilee. Mary and the other women, however, are afraid and say nothing to anyone. This is another way of seeing this "block" which only Jesus can take away. Later in the morning, after Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene, is when she sees "the glory of His rising". She is restored and has the courage to tell the Apostles what she heard from the angel. This helps us to see how sin blocks us from relying fully on the promises of God. Two thousand years later, Mary speaks to us now just as she did to the apostles on that first Easter morning. She has just encountered the living Lord, and runs to tell the good news. Imagine meeting her along the road. She runs excitedly - something must have happened - and you stop her and ask: "Tell us, Mary, what did you see along the way?" Listen as she tells you, and allow the joy and wonder to fill you as you hear this incredible news: Because her heart has been turned toward Christ through conversion and repentance, she becomes one of his most fervent, faithful disciples. It is Mary whose presence heralds the Gospel in order to prepare the hearts of all believers to receive the joy of the Gospel. The poetry of the Easter sequence does just that. It points us toward the fact that Christ is risen. The sequence begins with a call to thanksgiving: "Christians, to the Paschal Victim/ Offer your thankful praises!/ A Lamb the sheep redeems." We as Christians are called to be Eucharistic people in union with the Paschal Victim, since Eucharist means Thanksgiving in Greek. The Risen Jesus meets us just as He met the Magdalene. But today He meets us in the Eucharist, His Real presence. Let's meet Him, the Paschal Victim, full of thankful praise and allow Him to transform us by His Grace radiating from His Glorified Resurrected body, just as He transformed Mary on that first Easter Morning.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

- Are there obstacles in your life which prevent you from seeing the Risen Lord straight away?
- What changes are needed in your daily life, life of prayer, charitable works so as not to miss Jesus' presence?
- Are you still in need of signs to believe in the Resurrection of Jesus and His merciful unconditional love for you?
- Are you ready to spread the paschal message of the Resurrection, to our brethren even to those who haven't yet accepted Christ in their life?

PRAY THE HOLY ROSARY

PRAYERS OF REPARATION

ACT OF REPARATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Most Holy Virgin, and Our Mother, we listen with grief to the complaints of your Immaculate Heart surrounded with the thorns placed therein at every moment by the blasphemies and ingratitude of ungrateful humanity. We are moved by the ardent desire of loving you as Our Mother and of promising a true devotion to Your Immaculate Heart. We therefore kneel before You to manifest the sorrow we feel for the grievances that people cause You, and to atone by our prayers and sacrifices for the offenses with which they return your love. Obtain for them and for us the pardon of so many sins. Hasten the conversion of sinners that they may love Jesus Christ and cease to offend the Lord, already so much offended. Turn your eyes of mercy toward us, that we may love God with all our heart on earth and enjoy Him forever in Heaven.

THE ANGEL'S PRAYER

Most Holy Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—I adore Thee profoundly. I offer Thee the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifferences whereby He is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of Thee the conversion of poor sinners.

ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth, and tender Mother of men, in accordance with thy ardent wish made known at Fatima, I consecrate to thy Immaculate Heart myself, my brethren, my country and the whole human race. Reign over us, Most Holy Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Thy Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ reign and triumph in us even as It has reigned and triumphed in thee. Reign over us, dearest Mother, that we may be thine in prosperity and in adversity; in joy and in sorrow; in health and in sickness; in life and in death. O most compassionate Heart of Mary, Queen of Virgins, watch over our minds and our hearts and preserve them from the deluge of impurity which thou didst lament so sorrowfully at Fatima. We want to be pure like thee. We want to atone for the many sins committed against Jesus and thee. We want to call down upon our country and the whole world the peace of God in justice and charity. Therefore, we now promise to imitate thy virtues by the practice of a Christian life without regard to human respect. We resolve to receive Holy Communion on the First Saturday of every month and to offer thee five decades of the rosary each day together with our sacrifices in a spirit of reparation and penance. Amen.

THE PARDON PRAYER

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love Thee! I ask pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love Thee.



Bring flowers of the rarest, bring blossoms the fairest,
from garden and woodland and hillside and dale;
our full hearts are swelling, our glad voices telling
the praise of the loveliest flower of the vale

Refrain:

**O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today,
Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May.
O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today,
Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May.**

Their lady they name thee, their mistress proclaim thee.
Oh, grant that thy children on earth be as true,
as long as the bowers are radiant with flowers
as long as the azure shall keep its bright hue

Sing gaily in chorus, the bright angels o'er us
re-echo the strains we begin upon earth;
their harps are repeating the notes of our greeting,
for Mary herself is the cause of our mirth

At the Lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our victorious king,
who has washed us in the tide
flowing from his pierced side.
Praise we him whose love divine
gives the guests his blood for wine,
gives his body for the feast,
love the victim, love the priest.

Where the paschal blood is poured
Death's dark angel sheathes his sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go
through the wave that drowns the foe.
Christ the Lamb, whose blood was
shed,
Paschal victim, paschal bread;
with sincerity and love
eat we manna from above.

Mighty victim from the sky,
powers of hell beneath thee lie;
death is conquered in the fight,
thou hast brought us life and light.
Now thy banner thou dost wave;
vanquished Satan and the grave;
angels join his praise to tell –
see o'erthrown the prince of hell.

Paschal triumph, paschal joy,
only sin can this destroy;
from the death of sin set free
Souls re-born, dear Lord, in thee.
Hymns of glory, songs of praise,
Father unto thee we raise.
Risen Lord, all praise to thee,
ever with the Spirit be.

Anonymous, 7th Century. tr Robert Campbell (1814-68)

REGINA CAELI

Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia. Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia.
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia. Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

V. Gaude et laetare, Virgo Maria, alleluia. R. Quia surrexit Dominus vere, alleluia.

ATTEND HOLY MASS AND MAKE A COMMUNION OF REPARATION