



## WHERE'S THE BODY?

(JOHN 20:1-9)

All four Gospel accounts mention Mary Magdalene as visiting the tomb of Jesus on Easter morning.

We might note that, in John's account, she does not report to the two male disciples that Jesus is risen from the dead, only that Jesus' body is missing. Simon Peter does not conclude that the resurrection has taken place after running to the grave of Jesus. The reason for this is that the empty tomb is no proof of anything: it can only tell us that "he is not here"; it cannot supply the reason for this situation. People come to believe that Jesus "is risen", apart from one exception, through an encounter with the risen Jesus or through an angel, a divine messenger, that is, through revelation, not from human deduction or hearsay.

The one exception is the anonymous other disciple, "the one Jesus loved", who does come to believe without any personal meeting with the risen Lord. What enabled him to perceive the true reason behind the scene in front of him was his relationship with Jesus: this individual has been highlighted in the second part of the Gospel, in which the self-giving love of Jesus for his disciples has been stressed and illustrated by his washing of the disciples' feet.

The mention of the linen burial cloths and head covering recalls the Johannine account of the raising of Lazarus, who came out of his tomb still wrapped in his funeral sheets and had to be released from them. The Fourth Evangelist is telling us that Lazarus was restored to the life he had lost: the resurrection of Jesus is of a different order altogether. ■

### REFLECT

The male disciples of Jesus are often criticised or ridiculed for not believing the women when these female disciples tell them that Jesus is risen. However, the New Testament tells us that the testimony of the first disciples, on whose testimony belief in the resurrection of Jesus depends, is founded on "a personal experience of the risen Lord". Paul claims to be as much of an apostle as the likes of Peter on this very basis. The empty tomb is no proof, as we see from the Gospel narratives themselves: for example, Mary Magdalene will soon mistake the risen Jesus for the gardener and ask him what he might have done with the body. It is only when Jesus speaks her name that the joyful truth is revealed to her.

Those who enjoy detective stories will appreciate that the empty tomb is not a proof of the resurrection, but is in some ways a consequence of that event. The reason, according to the Christian scriptures, must come from divine revelation, from God: this is supplied either through angels or by the risen Jesus himself.

This means that each of us has to decide for her- or himself whether or not to believe in the resurrection: no one saw Jesus rise from the dead, despite the purely imaginative pictures in many stained-glass windows and illustrated Bibles. ■

### SAY

**The Lord is truly risen, alleluia!**

(from one of the Entrance Antiphons of the Mass on Easter Sunday)

### DO

Today is the greatest feast in the Christian year: celebrate it accordingly!

### LEARN

No one, including the soldiers on guard in Matthew's account, actually saw Jesus rise from the tomb.

"The disciple Jesus loved" is the figure at the source of the Johannine tradition and therefore of great importance in the Fourth Gospel.

Mary Magdalene is the only constant factor in the stories of the women's visit to the tomb of Jesus.



Mary Magdalene: detail from "Deposition of the Cross" (1927) by P. Verkade, in Carmelite Church, Dobling, Vienna

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia.  
You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia.  
Too wonderful for me, this knowledge,  
alleluia, alleluia.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

O God, who on this day,  
through your Only Begotten Son,  
have conquered death  
and unlocked for us the path to eternity,  
grant, we pray, that we who keep  
the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection  
may, through the renewal brought by your  
Spirit,  
rise up in the light of life.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING** Acts 10:34, 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.  
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."  
The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalm 117

Response:  
This day was made by the Lord;  
we rejoice and are glad.  
or  
Alleluia, alleluia, 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** Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Colossians.

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.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

Alternative second reading  
1 Corinthians 5:6-8

**SEQUENCE**

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer  
sacrifice and praise.  
The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;  
and Christ, the undefiled,  
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.  
Death with life contended; combat strangely  
ended!  
Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.  
Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon  
the way.  
The tomb the Living did enclose;  
I saw Christ's glory as he rose!  
The angels there attesting;  
shroud with grave-clothes resting.  
Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before  
you into Galilee.  
That Christ is truly risen from the dead we  
know.  
Victorious king, thy mercy show!

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed;  
let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

John 20:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
John.  
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.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES**

Dear brethren (brothers and sisters), through  
the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with  
Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him  
in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten  
observance is concluded, let us renew the  
promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once  
renounced Satan and his works and promised  
to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. And  
so I ask you:

Do you renounce Satan?  
I do.  
And all his works?  
I do.  
And all his empty show?  
I do.  
Do you believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth?  
I do.  
Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son,  
our Lord,  
who was born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered death and was buried,  
rose again from the dead  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father?  
I do.  
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting?  
I do.  
And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord  
Jesus Christ,  
who has given us new birth by water and the  
Holy Spirit  
and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins,  
keep us by his grace,  
in Christ Jesus our Lord,  
for eternal life.  
Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Exultant with paschal gladness, O Lord,  
We offer the sacrifice by which your Church  
is wondrously reborn and nourished.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed,  
alleluia;  
therefore let us keep the feast with the  
unleavened bread  
of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Look upon your Church, O God,  
with unfailing love and favour,  
so that, renewed by the paschal mysteries,  
she may come to the glory of the resurrection.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon**  
**1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL**

We are a *LiveSimply* parish aiming to live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor

Parish Priest: Fr. Jamie McGrath Tel: 01235 520375  
Parish Secretary: Lisa Paterson Tel: 01235 520375  
Office Hours: 10.30am-12.30pm Tuesday to Friday  
Office Email: abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

*We live stream all services*

Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230  
Visits at JR Hospital: Priest/Chaplain 01865 221732  
Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office  
Parish Website: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk  
Primary School: St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558



Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



**PRIVATE PRAYER**

We are blessed that the church can be open, but for **private prayer only**, on the following days and times:

- ✠ **Tuesdays: 12pm to 1pm**
- ✠ **Fridays: 12pm to 1pm**

**MASS BOOKINGS:**

**On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April you can book for Masses from Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April.**

**PLEASE** remember to give as many dates and times when you could attend, and book **on** the Monday – otherwise you may be disappointed. Also be clear on the number of people you are booking for and let us know if you would like to attend more than one Mass during the week.

**HOW TO BOOK FOR MASS**

**No Internet Access?**

Phone **07395 946827** EACH MONDAY between 10am and 11am ONLY to book a place for the FOLLOWING week

**Have Internet Access?**

**DON'T** phone. Instead, email: [contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk) EACH MONDAY, to book a place for the FOLLOWING week

**CONFESSIONS**

By appointment only for now. Please contact the **parish office** to book an appointment.

**NEWSLETTERS**

We are currently still not able to offer any printed material in church. Please bring your own newsletter with you if you would like to (you can download it from our website).

**Octave of Easter (Year B)**

**Attendance through booking system only, but also available on our live stream**

**Sunday 4 April**

8.45am Mass  
10.15am Mass  
12pm Mass  
2.00pm Mass in Polish

**Easter Sunday**

(Special intention)  
(Michael & Mary Haughton, RIP)  
(Private intention)

**Monday 5 April**

9am Mass  
2.00pm Mass in Polish

(Constance Isabella Pole, RIP)

**Tuesday 6 April**

NO Mass See: [www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse](http://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse) for other masses

**Wednesday 7 April**

7pm Mass (Special intention)

**Thursday 8 April**

9.30am Mass (Special intention)

**Friday 9 April**

7pm Mass (Sean Brady, RIP)

**Saturday 10 April**

12pm Mass (Special intention)



**SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER:**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot today receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



### **EASTER OFFERING**

The Easter Sunday Collection supports Father Jamie in his vocation and mission: bringing people closer to Jesus Christ, through His Church. Our Easter offering supports him, in recognition for all the dedication, guidance and care he has given in our parish, Diocese and pastoral area. You can make a donation on Easter Sunday in the usual way or through the special button which will be on the home page of our website. Thank you for your generosity.

### **BROTHERHOOD: THE INNER LIFE OF MONKS**

This interesting documentary programme was on BBC 4 on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March. It is now available on BBC iPlayer and will be for 11 months.

#### **PRAYER FOR EASTER**

Risen Jesus,  
show us the Resurrection You  
are working out in us.  
Open our eyes to see You,  
and our hearts to receive Your  
healing and miracles.

Free us from indifference and entitlement,  
that we might celebrate with abandon  
the gifts You have poured out on us.  
May we be overwhelmed  
by the joy of new life in You.  
Amen

### **LAUDATO SI' AND THE PANDEMIC**

Five years ago, Pope Francis unveiled his great encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si' - On Care for our Common Home*, which is addressed not just to the Catholic Church but the whole of humanity as we face to global climate emergency. The lessons of the encyclical are particularly relevant in the context of the coronavirus pandemic which has brought many parts of the world to a halt. Pope Francis reminded us in one of his recent weekly addresses, "As the tragic coronavirus pandemic has taught us we can overcome global challenges only by showing solidarity with one another and embracing the most vulnerable in our midst". He went on to say, "As a single interdependent family, we require a common plan in order to avert the threats to our common home." *Laudato Si'* offers a vision for building a more just and sustainable world. There is a reflection on *Laudato Si'* and prayer by Sr Margaret Atkins, in the *News section* on our website on the *Parish Blog* page.

### **AMORIS LAETITIA FAMILY YEAR**

Last Friday, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Pope Francis inaugurated the "*Amoris Laetitia Family*" Year urging all to support families and to accompany them along the journey of life. The *Amoris Laetitia Family Year* is to mark the fifth anniversary of his post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris laetitia* on the beauty and joy of conjugal and family love. He wants us to live a year of rereading the document and reflecting on the theme, until the celebration of the Tenth World Meeting of Families which, God willing, will take place in Rome on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2022." A summary of this very long document can be read via the *News* page of our website.

### **VACANCY**

St Aloysius Catholic Primary School in Oxford are currently advertising for a new Head, as their current Head is retiring after 10 successful years. For further information, phone 07800 634998 or get more information from the *News* page on our website.

This Easter, may you feel the joy of the presence of the risen Christ, and may the love of God be reborn, resurrected and renewed in your heart.

**HAPPY EASTER**