



Anglican Catholic Church



Diocese of the United Kingdom

Catholic Faith † Orthodox Worship † Apostolic Order

April 2022

*My dear friends and colleagues,*

In St. John chapter 20 we hear of Mary Magdalene, followed by St. Peter and “that disciple whom Jesus loved”, going to the tomb of Jesus and finding it empty. The gigantic stone that sealed up the entrance to the tomb had been mysteriously and inexplicably rolled away, and inside there was no body. There were grave clothes and a face cloth that had been wrapped around his head, but no Jesus.



So Peter went in, and then that other disciple, whom tradition says is St. John, went in too. And what does our text tell us? “And he saw” – that is, St. John saw – “and believed.”

He believed that Jesus had been raised from the dead, just as Jesus had said would happen but no one understood him at the time. It was also confirmed for him that Jesus was and is the Messiah, the anointed one of God sent to save God’s people.

And Mary Magdalene believed in the resurrected Jesus too. In the same 20th chapter, she is standing outside the tomb weeping. This is after the two disciples have gone on home. And as she is weeping, she bent down and looked inside the tomb, and there she saw two angels all in white, sitting at the head and foot of where Jesus had been laid. And these angels said to Mary, “why are you crying?” She responded, “because they have taken away my Lord, and I don’t know where they have put him.”

Suddenly she realized that another person was there behind her, a man she thought was a gardener. The tomb of Jesus was, of course, in a garden. And this man, too, asks her why she is crying. “Sir,” she says to him, “if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

It was at this point that the man, who is actually Jesus, calls her by name: “Mary.” Now she realised it was the resurrected Master. And she then went and told the disciples, “I have seen the Lord.” Mary, too, now believed.

Through all the Gospels, as well as the Book of Acts, we have various accounts of the resurrected Jesus walking, talking, eating and drinking with the disciples.

The resurrection is the central fact of our Christian faith. It guarantees that everything Jesus said was true, and that he truly is the Messiah of God, the Saviour of the world.

But all of this is for nothing if you and I don’t believe that Jesus actually and physically rose from the dead.

Do you believe it? I do!

A very happy Eastertide

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## Three bodies

In a way, the Last Supper was the rehearsal for the Sacrifice. The Body of Christ was in the Upper Room in all three of its modes of being: the body of the person of God the Son; the bread of the Thanksgiving; and the faithful disciples. But it took the Crucifixion to put the match to the firework, as it were, and then the rocket took off and on Easter day exploded over Creation in the glory of the Resurrection.

That same glory takes off in every Mass, where the three modes of the Body of Christ are again present: the glorified Body of Christ in Heaven, the Sacramental Body of Christ on the altar, and the Body of Christ (that's us) sitting in the pews. The Blessed Sacrament is the narrow neck of the hour-glass, through which the dynamism of the life of the Trinity pours into the faithful disciples, making them "other Christs".

So out we go into Conwy, or Faversham, or Sheffield, or Bolton, or Rochester, or Salford, or York, or Thames Ditton, or Pembroke Dock, or Dartford, to live like Christ – and that will always include Crucifixion moments. But though we sometimes have to deal with sorrow, disappointment, defeat, anxiety and many disagreeable matters, we can at any moment lift up our hearts and eyes and see the sky bursting with the Resurrection fireworks.

There are always feet to be washed – but then it's time to party – here and in Heaven.

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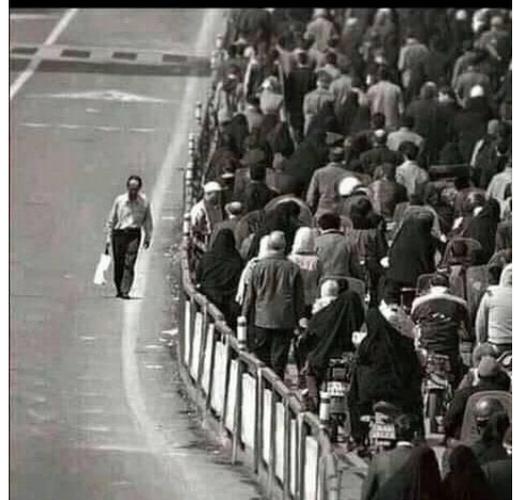
On Maundy Thursday we give thanks for the Holy Eucharist, but it is also a day when we give thanks for the institution of the Sacred Priesthood. Please pray for vocations, and for those who are answering God's call.

### VOCATION

"Recall the circumstances of this inspiration how it became more and more insistent, possibly returning after a time until you could not fail to recognise in it the voice of God, the force of love with which the Lord calls a person to belong to Him, undividedly. Recall this to mind, in order to thank God with a new heart and proclaim His mighty works. The inspiration of the Spirit cannot die out. It is destined to endure and together with your religious vocation to become more mature throughout your entire life."

*Pope John Paul II*

**Be strong in the Faith. It is better to walk alone than with a crowd going in the wrong direction**



*(My "desk picture" shows an Isle of Sheppey scene viewed from my desk, from the garden, or within a few minutes of it.)*