

Reflection Wednesday Week 16 - St Mary Magdalen– 2020

St Augustine said: *“Our hearts are restless until they rest in you, my God!”* Today we are reminded that Mary Magdalen, whose heart yearned for Jesus, was the first of the disciples to meet Jesus after his resurrection. **J. Lee Grady** compares this encounter of Jesus with the Fall in the garden of paradise. In that first garden, the ground was cursed and Adam and Eve expelled in disgrace - the relationship with God was broken. In the blessed resurrection garden, Mary is welcomed and the relationship with God is restored. Whereas Eve rejected God, Mary Magdalen welcomes Christ and becomes a sign that the power of evil has been overcome and that we are set free. Equally the Adam of the first story who led to the downfall is replaced by Christ in whom we all find true life. Finally, the angel of the first story stands with a fiery sword to keep humankind out of the garden. At the resurrection the angels invite Mary (and us) to meet the risen Christ. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus has fully reversed the consequences of the Fall. Throughout his life Jesus continually challenged the status quo. In his day, women were not allowed to be witnesses; they were considered to be unreliable. Jesus not only reverses this but makes Mary the first disciple to be commissioned to go out and spread the Good News – the first evangeliser. Jesus therefore breaks the curse of sin. Whereas Eve led to the dislocation of the relationship between us and God, Mary Magdalen is given the opportunity to be the bearer of good news for all - a mission she fully accepted and obeyed with great love and joy. In doing this, Jesus also makes it clear that the spreading of the Good News would be the work of both women and men.

In recognition of her great role in the birth of the Church, we celebrate a feast today of one of the greatest disciples of Jesus. Thank you, Mary Magdalen! Thank you!

Good news and Bad news

Wife: I have some good news and some bad news for you, darling.

Husband: I am very busy preparing for a meeting shortly, can you just give me good news?

Wife: The airbags work extremely well in our new BMW.