

KIT @ KIPPAX

Staying Connected while Physically Distant

Monday 18 May 2020

Experiencing the Resurrection with Mary Magdalene

Something which is known to have been from the beginning: this we have heard and seen with our own eyes; something we have touched and have carefully watched: the Word who is life, this we share with you.

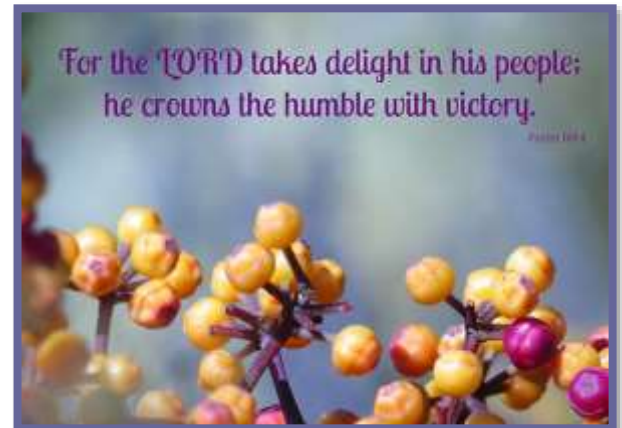
Something Which is Known, Gregory Norbett (Weston Priory), based on 1 John 1:1

Each Easter Sunday, we Catholics hear of the resurrection, but in the gospel reading from John we hear it only in-part. We hear of Simon Peter and the Beloved Disciple's marvellous discovery at the tomb, initiated by Mary Magdalene's news, and get a sense of something wonderful. But we get a half-told story because the full story with Mary Magdalene and her encounter, the climax of John's story of Easter morn, is left for Easter Monday, when few of us are at mass to hear it. We miss something for the reasons hinted at in the above words of a Catholic hymn: how and why the resurrection and the experience of the risen Christ was so transformative for the followers of Jesus, both at a personal level and later, for the community.

Our own experiences of loss and grief in life enable us to be drawn into Mary's experience, to enter into Mary's own journey through grief. As Mary discovers the angels, we are invited to see how the numinous can be present even when we only feel loss - it is waiting to be discovered, once our eyes adjust in the dark to that other reality, though that takes time. A journey through tears or loss eventually, with time, can open out to the full joy of the presence of the risen Christ. There are many invitations to Mary on that journey: the question of the angels, the same question of the risen Jesus who Mary does not yet recognise, and the ultimate, intimate call of Jesus to Mary by name. We cannot choose how, where and when we encounter the risen Jesus - that is the gift of God - but we can seek to be open and ready for that encounter, even when the light is dim or absent.

Ruth Dunnicliff-Hagan (April 2020)

Today's Gospel John 15:26-16:4



Prayer and Perseverance

Reading Fr. Kimi's 'from the side desk' reminded me of many things. I hope, trust and believe in the spirit's presence in my life. However, I am sometimes blind to what the Spirit is trying to teach me. Hindsight is a wonderful thing. When I look back and see that God has answered my prayer but not in the way I wanted I find that his idea was much better than mine. It's a time of reflection in these days. There is more time to remember to remain in the love of Jesus. If I do that I can speak to people with that love in my heart. If I don't I might go forth from a place of unthinking carelessness, disappointment or frustration. I too become self-focused and have tunnel vision. I cling to my faith and hope like hanging on a cliff by my finger nails. This is why I feel I need to spend time each morning in prayer asking the good Lord to guide me through the day. Some days it's hard - feeling sleepy, not in the mood but I persevere as I have been taught by many lovely Spiritual Directors that we must 'keep on keeping on' if we are to stay in touch with the risen Lord.

Ann Reynolds



I HAVE
CALLED
YOU
FRIENDS
JOHN 15:15