

UNLESS THE GRAIN OF WHEAT FALLS INTO THE GROUND, IT REMAINS ALONE BUT IF IT FALLS  
INTO GOOD GROUND IT PRODUCES FRUIT A HUNDRED-FOLD

These prophetic words of Jesus, give us entry to thoughts about life, death and resurrection for in them he spoke of himself, of his death, of his burial and of his Resurrection.

Praying our way through Lent, being thoughtful and aware of our need for a nearness to God's love has led us into the celebration of the Passion of Christ, his Resurrection, his re-birth and ours.

Last Friday, Good Friday, we remembered the day Christ died and, with and in faith, we have lived through this appalling time with him. We have kept him company throughout the week leading up to his death. We've accompanied him on his farewell visit to Martha and Mary, we've 'heard' the discussions of Judas with the plotters, we've witnessed the arrest of Jesus with the treacherous kiss of Judas, we've seen the apostles run away frightened and maybe we too have run away since staying would have been too painful or too frightening.

If we've 'lived' this last week with Jesus we are sure to be able to enjoy the glorious feast of his Resurrection.

The deeper we've plunged into the Passion of Jesus the greater will be our celebration, for seed sown in shallow ground barely flourishes but seed, well sown and nurtured gives fruit in plenty. The suffering and the being with Jesus throughout the holiest week of the year will be the source of great joy and jubilation.

Jesus, our Saviour has died for us and redeemed us.

He's bought us back.

He's brought us back.

He's restored us to fulness of love and life with our Father God.

Jesus is the grain of wheat falling into the ground. He's entered into the 'womb' of the earth in his death and burial and has been formed, in three days of gestation, into a new, glorified person. The glorified Christ is our salvation and recognizing him is the way to joy, peace and union with God the Father.

To enjoy the wonder of Easter, of Resurrection, let us go to the tomb with the women. Prepared to serve their Master they approach. They are open to the knowledge that, after three days the services they are to perform for Jesus, will be hard, unpleasant, sickening but vital and are ones that they want to do. Finding the rock moved from the entry to the tomb, they are afraid. Afraid, not for themselves but for the safety of Jesus.

The Angels calm them but leave them puzzled.

"He whom you seek is not here. He is risen. Go tell his friends."

Another task.

Another mission.

Another trust has been laid on the them.

Mary Magdalene hears but cannot leave. She is needful of certainty, nearness, conviction, not because she does not believe but because she loves so much. Staying she cries, weeps, longs for Jesus and her prayer is heard.

Jesus, in a wonderful moment of intimacy, love, concern and understanding reveals himself and commissions her to go and spread the news of his Rebirth, his Resurrection, his Flowering. She is his personal apostle. She is the one he can trust. He knows that she will, in her love for him, reveal the glory, the wonder, the truth and the doctrine of his Rising from the dead.

Let us ask Mary Magdalene to inspire us with the love she has for Jesus and impart some of it so that we too can be trusted with a share in her mission to tell of his Rising.

But what of another person Jesus must greet? What of Mary, his Mother?

No story is written about this for us.

There's no mention in the Gospels.

There's no hint of the meeting between the two.

There's no indication that they did meet but it's inconceivable that Jesus did not see his mother on the morning of the Resurrection. St Ignatius of Loyola believed that he went first to her. That she was the one he needed to see first. That Mary was undoubtedly waiting, in faith, for his rising. Mary knew and believed that he would rise again. He'd indicated it. He'd prophesied it. Mary had faith and that faith was rewarded. The SEED, her Son, had fallen into the ground and now was the time of flowering<sup>1</sup>

Imagine, in prayer, the meeting of this Mother and Son.

Stand in the shadows of daybreak and watch the joy-filled meeting as the sun rises.

Watch, as a precious gift to you, the reunion and the human hugs and kisses.

Listen to the love between them and the praise they give to God the Father.

Rejoice that, in imaginative prayer, we can share this moment and learn of the joys to come. The Resurrection of Jesus is the sign of our future resurrection and our life in eternity. Mary's joy at seeing her Son is a foretaste of the joy we shall experience when we too meet Christ; a foretaste of the welcome he will give us. The mutual joy will be experienced by us when we too shall meet him face to face.



*The Risen Christ greets His Mother.*

*Sculpture by Rory Geoghegan SJ*

**THE LORD IS RISEN.**

**COME LET US WORSHIP.**