

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: the Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 98.

RESPONSE:

The Lord has shown his deliverance to the nations.

- O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. **R**
- The Lord has made known his salvation, has shown his deliverance to the nations. He has remembered his merciful love and his truth for the house of Israel. **R**
- All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song, and sing out your praise. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-10.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia. If a man loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

In his book "**O Mother Blest**", Fr Seán Wales highlights the role of Mary in our lives. Taking us on a tour through icons and feasts of Mary, inspiring explanations of the Marian prayers we know so well, and other Marian themes, he offers us a spiritual gem that will not only deepen our devotion to Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, but will also lead us closer to Jesus, her Son.



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THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 6 May Liturgy of the Day

Acts 16:11-15; Psalm 149; John 15:26-16:4

It is far too common for Christians today to simply believe in Jesus personally, but then fail to wholeheartedly give testimony to him by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. How can you fulfill this calling?

Tue 7 May Liturgy of the Day

Acts 16:22-34; Psalm 138; John 16:5-11

Change can be unsettling to most people. However, whenever some new change takes place in our lives, the Holy Spirit is there, waiting to enter into the new situation in ways we could have never imagined.

Wed 8 May Liturgy of the Day

Acts 17:15.22-18:1; Psalm 148; John 16:12-15

Have you allowed the Holy Spirit to guide you into the truth? Ponder on those concrete moments in your life when you have come to know God in a new and profound way?

Thu 9 May Liturgy of the Day

Acts 18:1-8; Psalm 98; John 16:16-20

Reflect, today, upon the image of the disciples worshipping God and doubting at the same time. If this image strikes a chord within you, then pay attention to it. Ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom and guidance.

Fri 10 May (St John of Avila, PrD)

Acts 18:9-18; Psalm 47; John 16:20-23

Anguish, or any form of suffering, can tempt us to question our lives and even to question God. When things take a painful turn in our lives, we should especially listen to the words of Jesus to us today.

Sat 11 May Liturgy of the Day

Acts 18:23-28; Psalm 47; John 16:23-28

Where Jesus has gone, we are invited to follow. Ponder upon your calling to do all you can to draw others into a new life in Christ, fulfilling Christ's mission to "go into the whole world".

Sun 12 May ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Mark 16:15-20

Reflect, today, upon the particular mission that God has given to you. Stand with him on the mountain of the Ascension and receive that mission with courage, commitment and joy.

(KEY: **SOLEMNITY**; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial) Pr= Priest; D= Doctor

Catholic Link

EASTER SPIRITUALITY

6th Sunday of Easter • Year B
Divine Office: Week II • 5 May 2024

Easter Love

Surely the Christian commandment of love is so general that it transcends any liturgical season? Love is love, so why talk about "Easter love"? Yet love is the thread running through our Scriptures today. The second reading offers the unique Christian claim: "God is love" (1 John 4:8). Perhaps the question to ask is, how does the Easter Mystery cast its own light on the law of love?

Two resurrection love narratives stand out: the encounters Jesus has with Mary Magdalene and Peter.

Mary Magdalene was present at the crucifixion of Jesus, standing with his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas. This suggests that she is courageous, loyal and devoted, sharing grief with a mother and a close relative, offering them comfort even as she endured her own grief. When next we meet the Magdalene at the tomb of Jesus, she is still grieving.

But slowly the light of truth and love dawns on her as we see a woman rising above the limitations of human emotion and false assumptions to profound faith in the resurrection. Human emotion is the raw material through which the Holy Spirit works in us as next we read that "still weeping, she bent over" to look inside the tomb.

After initial confusion, thinking the person she encounters is the gardener, the Word utters a word, a word in the form of her name: Miryam! The Good Shepherd knows his sheep by name, and they know the sound of his voice (10:3). Mary is the first disciple to hear the voice of the Risen Shepherd who had laid down his life for his

sheep. She responds, "Rabbouni!" which means "My Teacher". Jesus cautions Mary, however, not to cling to him because he must still return to his Father – his Paschal mystery is not yet complete. Mary is called to a new intimacy with the risen Lord which transcends the human intimacy she had known with Jesus of Nazareth. He explains that the greatest intimacy with him is precisely this, that his Father is now also her Father, his God is her God.

Peter's post-resurrection narrative is the well-known encounter he has with the risen Christ on



Appearance of Jesus to Mary Magdalene (1835) by Alexander Ivanov

the shores of Galilee, when Jesus – no doubt alluding to the three times that Peter denied him – asks him three times, "Do you love me". John's use of two different Greek words for love is significant. Initially, Jesus asks him if he loves him with self-sacrificing love, that is, love to the point of death. Peter replies by saying, in effect, that he loves him as a friend. Jesus repeats the question, again using the word for self-sacrificing love. Peter still replies with the word for ordinary friendship. Finally, Jesus, taking Peter where he is, asks him, "do you love me [as a friend]?" Jesus thus meets Peter at the level of the love of friendship with which Peter is still comfortable, but he knows that Peter will grow gradually into the deeper, sacrificial meaning of love as he renews his original call: "Follow me."

Easter love – resurrection love – takes us where we are and at the same time empowers us to continue to grow in love and to transcend our human limitations.