



## **GOD'S WORD FOR THIS WEEK**

*Powerscourt with Kilbride*

**Easter Sunday  
12<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

### **The Collect of the Day**

Almighty God,  
through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ  
you have overcome death  
and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:  
Grant that, as by your grace going before us  
you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help we may bring them to  
good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy  
Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **The First Reading: Acts 10: 34-43**

34 Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

### **The Second Reading: Colossians 3: 1-4**

**3** So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your\* life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

## The Gospel Reading: John 20: 1-18

**20** Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes.

**11** But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look\* into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup>They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew,\* 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ' <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

### Set Free (A reflection)

The resurrection sets free something within us;

It gives us permission to believe in more;

It gives us permission to imagine beyond the boundaries we or the world can often place around ourselves.

It gives us permission to let go of the control of all that we can see and feel because there is suddenly a whole world beyond that again of which we have no control.

It gives us permission to believe in the words 'I will be with you always, even to the end of the age.'

It gives us permission to trust - to become little children in the face of God; to feel that burst of energy within our chest that speaks of hope and joy.

It gives us permission to understand that this world is both beautiful and tragic; that the God of resurrection chose to sample both and knows both intimately.

It gives us permission to believe that he still chooses to be with us in either aspect of our lives - at the coalface of our every experience, and without reserve.

The resurrection gives us permission to move forward freely in the knowledge that we are cherished by unconditional love.

The resurrection sets free something with us that, once released, ensures that we can never be the same again.

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## Pointers for Prayer

### The Recognition of Christ

Mary Magdalene understood the Christ and loved him, yet, immersed in deep grief, she did not initially recognise the risen Christ when he stood before her.

We might consider how much we recognise Jesus in our daily lives, in circumstances and experiences. What might he be telling us through all we encounter? In what situation have you felt Christ's presence lately? Do you need to spend more time sitting in His peaceful presence?

Do we need to ask again today for a renewed trust in God's power to bring new life to a situation in our lives or in the world? Are there people known to us who are in need of a new beginning?



*Father of all created things,  
Today we remember the story of the most profound event the world has ever known;  
the resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ. To him we give ourselves again this day,  
asking his guidance and presence in the days that follow, in our own lives and in the  
lives of those we hold before you now.. We give thanks to you for all you have done  
for us in the person of Christ as we proclaim with great joy..*

*The Lord is Risen. He is Risen indeed! Hallelujah!*

## Psalm 118

- <sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.
- <sup>2</sup> Let Israel say:  
"His love endures forever."
- <sup>3</sup> Let the house of Aaron say:  
"His love endures forever."
- <sup>4</sup> Let those who fear the Lord say:  
"His love endures forever."
- <sup>5</sup> When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord;  
he brought me into a spacious place.
- <sup>6</sup> The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid.  
What can mere mortals do to me?
- <sup>7</sup> The Lord is with me; he is my helper.  
I look in triumph on my enemies.
- <sup>8</sup> It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in humans.