

INSPIRED BY MARY MAGDALENE
FEAST OF SAINT MARY MAGDALENE – 22 JULY 2021



Appearance of Jesus Christ to Maria Magdalena (1835) by Alexander Andreyevich Ivanov

2016 VATICAN DECREE & SAINT MARY MAGDALENE

In the [2016 Vatican Decree](#), Saint Mary Magdalene is

- regarded as *'the first witness of the Lord's resurrection and the first evangelist'*
- *'known as the one who loved Christ and who was greatly loved by Christ'*
- *'called a "witness of Divine Mercy" by Saint Gregory the Great'*
- *'and an "apostle of the apostles" by Saint Thomas Aquinas'*

In the Letter that accompanies the Decree, we are reminded that she

- *'has the honour to be the first witness of the Lord's resurrection'*
- *'the first who saw the empty tomb and the first to hear the truth about his resurrection.'*
- *'showed her love for Christ by seeking him in her anguish and suffering in the garden'*

GOSPEL OF JOHN

We read the inspiring, spiritual encounter of Jesus and Mary Magdalene in **John's Gospel**

Chapter 20:

"But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb.

As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; 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.

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.'

When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

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.'

Jesus said to her,

'Mary!'

She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher).

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."

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."

As church community, we celebrate the Feast of St Mary Magdalene today, July 22nd, as *Apostle to the Apostles*.

Inspired by Mary Magdalene, we take this graced moment to respond to the invitation of Jesus to Mary and to us –

'For whom are you looking?'

With open hearts, we respond in love.

Fr Gerry Hefferan

readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/072221.cfm>



"For whom are you looking?"