

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 22<sup>nd</sup>, as *Apostle to the Apostles*.

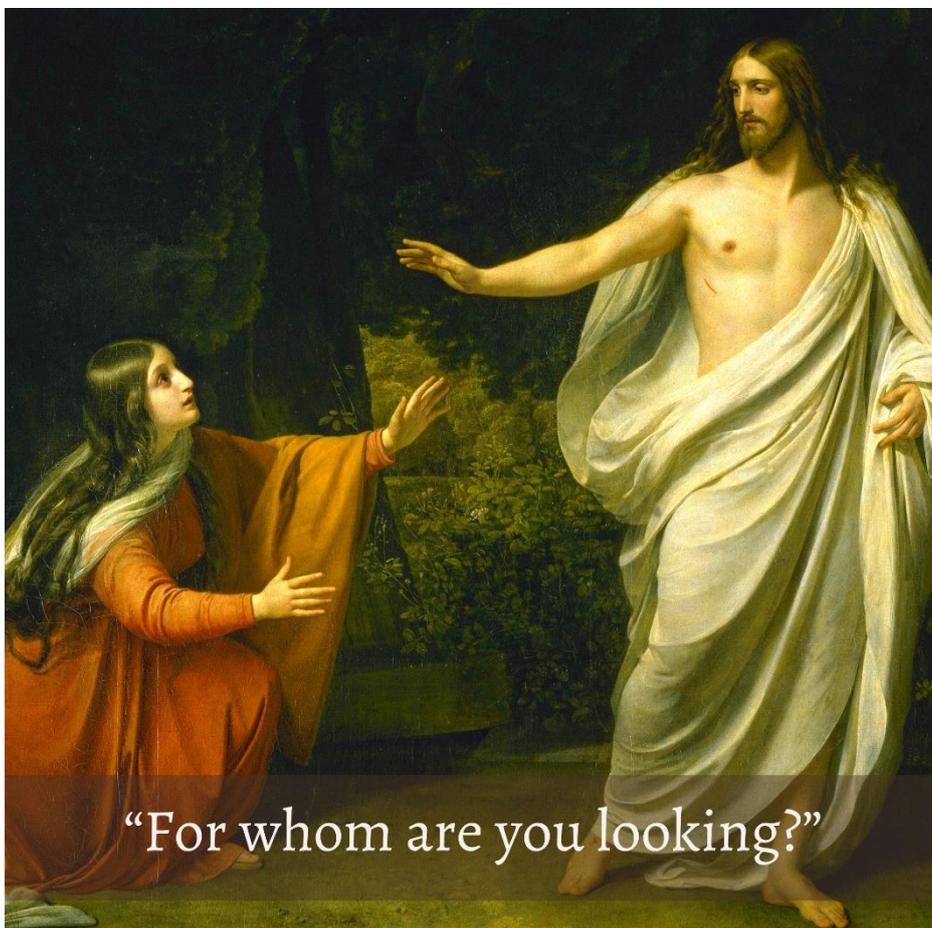
Inspired by Mary Magdalene, we take this graced moment to respond to the invitation of Jesus to Mary and to us –

***'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?"***