

03rd Apr 2021

In the name of The Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit. Amen

Throughout Jesus' ministry in Galilee, among those who followed him were three women. Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of James & Solome. They also took care of his needs.

During his crucifixion, they had stood and watched at a distance.

As Jesus had been crucified on the day before Sabbath, there was no time for his body to be anointed with spices.

In the gospel of Saint Mark, we read that as soon as the Sabbath was over, the three women bought spices and went to the tomb.

The women had been worried about the weight of the stone and how they would be able to roll the stone. **'who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?'**

When the women looked up, they saw that the large stone had been rolled away.

The young man dressed in white told them that Jesus had been raised from the dead.

Instead, the women should **go and tell the disciples and Peter that Jesus was going ahead of them to Galilee.**

Why Galilee?

At the beginning of Mark's gospel Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the river Jordan.

It was in Galilee that Jesus proclaimed the good news of God. Galilee was Jesus' home town. He called his first disciples Simon and his brother Andrew.

Luke 14:28 at the Lord's supper, Jesus had told his disciples **"But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."**

Tonight, Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified has been raised. We are to go and tell the story of the good news to the world just as the women were told.

To tell the story of the of the Messiah, the son of God. The healing and miracles. The life changing experiences and to make his story our story.

Tonight, we lit the paschal candle from the new fire that symbolises our eternal life in Christ.

The candle representing Christ himself; The Alpha and Omega; the beginning and the end.

The light of Christ's resurrection has overcome the darkness of the tomb.

In the reading from the 6th letter of Paul to the Romans

"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."

When we were baptized, we entered the tomb with Jesus, died to sin, and rose with Jesus to live a new life of faith.

As we renew our baptismal promises, let us try to leave our pattern of sin behind and start a new life.

When we return to our homes, work places and neighbourhoods may we carry the light of Christ so that those around us who do not know Jesus might be blessed, healed, strengthened and transformed.

Romans 10:14-15

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed?

And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard?

And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?

And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent?

As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Let us be the messengers of the good news of the risen Christ.

He has risen! Go tell your neighbours, your friends & family and your work colleagues. Amen