

**St Mary Magdalene's Anglican Church
Moore Street, Adelaide**

A REFLECTION FOR EASTER DAY

They disciples were utterly surprised at the news. How could it be? Was not St Mary Magdalene out of her mind? She had told them of finding the empty tomb. Peter and John had rushed to check the tomb. We do not know of Peter's reaction but John's we do know. He sees and believes. In other words, he now believes and understands all that he heard Jesus teach and do among the people. At last it all makes real sense to him.

The news confirmed Mary Magdalene's discovery. All the disciples then came to believe, too. So they continued to gather, not to grieve but to talk, pray and wait. The mood turned from despair to celebration and anticipation. The Holy Spirit, promised by Jesus, was to come to them. That would be their starting point as they proclaimed the Kingdom of God as Jesus had. They would be led in all directions to tell of the good news as would countless people who succeeded them.

St Paul tells us of our new life in Christ. We, too, hope to share in the resurrection. This will happen not only when we die but it can happen each day of our lives. St Paul wants us to model our lives on the example of Jesus. This includes loving the weakest members of the wider community, being generous to the poor, readiness at all times to forgive others, to heal people who are hurt and being able to show how joyful we are to be alive, especially on Sundays when we celebrate together the resurrection of Christ. All this we can do in the power of the Holy Spirit. It seems as if it a steep obligation but the more we attempt it the easier it becomes and we are never alone in our efforts. The Holy Spirit is our helper.

So we stand in a great line of witnesses carrying the light of Christ to others. One important way of witnessing is for us to model our lives on Jesus as our example. The risen Christ comes to meet each person and he invited the response of faith. First it is St Mary Magdalene, St John and St Peter, then the apostles, and now to us in the great line. To be witnesses to the Resurrection of Christ and not witnesses to negativity, despair and pessimism.

May each one of us know the peace and joy of Easter Day. It is ours to share generously.

Fr Graeme Kaines
Locum Priest

Easter 2020