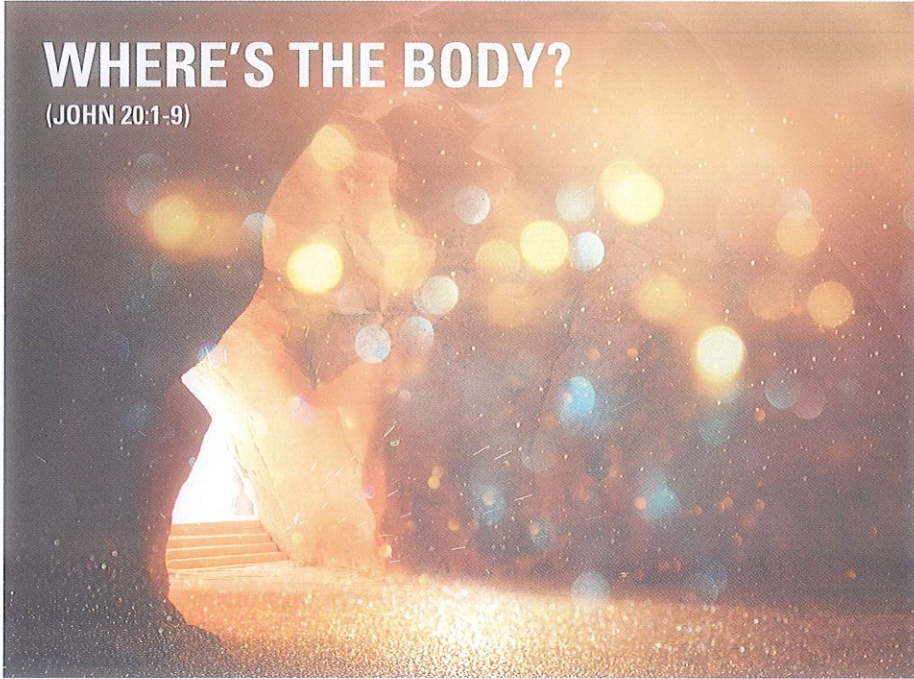


WHERE'S THE BODY?

(JOHN 20:1-9)



The narrative Gospel tradition presents Mary Magdalene as the first witness to the Resurrection.

We might note that the gospel accounts do not say that anyone actually saw Jesus emerge from the tomb. The women are the constant factor in the story of Jesus' journey of suffering. They witness the crucifixion and the burial; Mary Magdalene and others are mentioned in the various narratives of the discovery of the empty tomb.

The episode today recalls John's telling of Jesus' raising Lazarus to life, but there are important and significant differences in the two scenes. First of all, Lazarus' tomb is still sealed, but that of Jesus is open (leading to questions as to why: Mary does not conclude from the absence of the body that Jesus is risen). In the case of Jesus, his burial cloths are found on the ground and his facecloth rolled up in a separate place: Lazarus appears with his funeral sheets around him.

We might notice that the simple fact of the missing body does not inspire Simon Peter to faith. Peter may well be the leader of the disciples, but it is the one who is closest to Jesus in a relationship of love who understands what has actually happened. ■

SAY

This day was made by the Lord: we rejoice and are glad!
(Psalm 117:24)

DO

Make the sign of the cross privately with water; renew quietly your commitment to the person of Jesus.

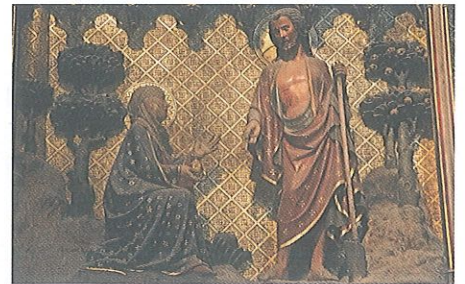
LEARN

No one witnessed Jesus rising from the tomb.

The original witnesses come to believe through a personal encounter with the risen Jesus.

Mary Magdalene is the constant presence in the Resurrection narratives.

Easter is our opportunity to renew our faith and our commitment to Jesus and the teachings of the Gospel.



Christ and Mary Magdalene - relief from Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris

REFLECT

Sacred art can be very helpful in thinking about the mysteries of our faith. But sometimes it can offer too simplistic an understanding, especially of the Resurrection of Jesus. Apart from the Beloved Disciple, who stands at the origin of the tradition going back to John, no one comes to believe in the Resurrection simply through the fact that Jesus' tomb is found empty. Mary Magdalene tells Simon Peter and the others that someone has removed the body and she and her companions have no idea what has happened to it.

It is only through a personal encounter with the risen Jesus that people come to believe in the Resurrection. They have an experience which convinces them that Calvary and the cross were not the end of the story. Thus, they are witnesses to the Resurrection, rather than witnesses of the Resurrection. It is on their testimony that the preaching of the Gospel is based: the empty tomb is never advanced as evidence, because it is rather a consequence of what is being proclaimed.

Each Easter, we are invited to renew our faith in the risen Jesus and to affirm his

place in our lives. When we are asked, "Do you believe in Jesus Christ ... who was crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead ... ?" we should not see our answer as simply a statement of fact, but rather as our annual commitment to our Christian faith and to the person of Jesus.

We are declaring that we are Jesus' disciples; that he is present to us in our daily life, that we are doing our best to live by his teachings and values, and that this is most present when we celebrate the Eucharist together. ■



NEWSLETTER

17TH APRIL 2022

A PARISH OF THE MULLINGAR DEANERY

Fr. Stan Deegan Tel: 044-9374127 0872673655.

Email: parishofkillucan@gmail.com

www.parishofkillucan.ie Facebook: Killucan Parish

The Community of St. Camillus 044 9374115.

ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.

Sunday 24th, 11.30am. Pat Croach MM. Johnny & Frances Monaghan.

ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.

Sunday 24th, 10am. Norma Naughton.

Weekday Masses; Thurs Raharney. Wed & Fri Rahtwire.

MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: €625
PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND €704

Theresa Nea, Riverdale.
David O'Brien. Killucan.

Adoration
of the
Blessed Sacrament



**In St. Joseph's Tuesday 1pm-9pm.
& St. Brigid's Wed. 6pm-10pm:**
*Special Diocesan intention of prayer
for vocations and the family.*
Take one Hour with the Lord

Rising to New Life

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad." Easter is the great celebration of victory of life over death.

Ours is an Easter religion. We do not deny or turn away from the evils that surround us: the wars that have killed some 100 million people in our (last) century; the poverty that grips more than half of the human race; the hunger that kills millions every year and ruins the lives of millions more; the discrimination that divides the human family into contending parties.

We do not deny these miseries, but we refuse to surrender to their power because of our faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Suffering will be vindicated; death will be overcome; a new life will arise: that is the Easter message of the paschal mystery.

"Let us feast with joy in the Lord." Just as Christ passed through death to resurrection, so too will the world pass through its suffering to the glory of a new life.

There is no room for despair: our Easter faith tells us that God will "raise us up and renew our lives." This is the 'day which the Lord has made.' Alleluia! Take fresh hope, brothers and sisters of the whole world! With Christ our Passover everything is possible! Christ goes forward in our future!

Pope John Paul II, Easter Message,

WISHING YOU ALL THE BLESSINGS AND
JOY OF EASTER. MAY THE RISEN
CHRIST FILL OUR HEARTS WITH HOPE,
STRENGTH AND LOVE.