



July 24, 2022

Feast of Holy Mary of Magdala
(transferred from July 22)

Apostolic Johannite Church

St. Teresa Parish News

Feasts this Week:

July 25

Holy Apostle James

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Rector's Ramblings

I want to start this week's edition of the Parish Newsletter with an apology for the lack of Newsletter last week.

Sadly over last weekend I was ill and finishing the newsletter and getting it out totally slipped my mind.

After some time off work at the start of the week I am feeling much improved and am back on track.

I hope that all of our parishioners and readers have fared better in the last week than I have and have kept the winder lurgies at bay!

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I want to take an opportunity again to remind folks that on the 7th of August our monthly Mass will be in Toowoomba. This gives us the opportunity to meet with a long time member of St Theresa who can no longer travel to Brisbane to be with is on a regular basis. It would be great to see those folks who can make the trip join us for this yearly excursion. Keep an eye out on the usual channels for exact details next week.

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When we have gathered for our regular Masses you may notice that I take our readings for the day from a spiral bound book. This book is called a Lectionary and the one that we use regularly was put together by the Ecclesia

Gnostica. Today however, I have chosen not to use the Collect or Gospel from this lectionary.

The main reason for this is that the Gospel reading, in my mind, re-enforced a misconception about who Mary Magdalene is in the Bible.

In 591 CE Pope Gregory I preached a sermon in which he combined three characters from the Bible into one. These three characters were Mary of Bethany, Mary Magdalene, and the "sinful woman" (often translated as harlot or prostitute) who washed Jesus feet with her hair.

This image of Mary Magdalene as a prostitute whom Jesus saved persisted throughout the centuries and has often found its way into modern portrayals of the Gospel narratives.

However, that image of Mary Magdalene is far from the reality portrayed in the Gospels. Instead, Mary plays a pivotal role in a number of stories not the least being the resurrection.

In the Gospel of John it's Mary Magdalene who is the first to witness the resurrection of Christ and who is commissioned to bring that news to the Apostles. As a result Mary is today often accorded the title of Apostle to the Apostles.

While amongst Gnostics there may be debate of the meaning and reality of the Resurrection the

importance of Mary being the first to witness this event should not be lost. At a time where women had very little influence and when their word was not particularly useful as testimony Mary was chosen as the chief witness of what would become the centerpiece of Christian theology.

To me there is a deep meaning to this that goes beyond the gender issues that have plagued human society for time immemorial.

In Mary Magdalene we see a warning we all need to heed; don't discount a messenger just because it doesn't fit with our pre-conceived notions.

How often do people discounted an idea or a practice because of where it has come from? How often have people scoffed at someone's words because of their view of the individual's lifestyle, beliefs, education, or any other number of factors?

For me, the story of Mary Magdalen and the Resurrection is a reminder that the Divine does not conform to my beliefs and ideas but instead can choose to work through any channel. If I am to genuinely seek after Gnosis I need to keep my mind and spirit open to Divine Truths wherever they may be.

I would invite each of you this week to join me in meditating on Maru Magdalene and how our own preconceptions can be overcome on the path to Gnosis.

Blessings, Fr. Brenden+



Feast of Holy Mary of Magdala July 22

This feast day is a Red Letter Day (Major Feast) on the Calendar of the Apostolic Johannite Church.

Collect

Loving God, Who created us in your own image and likeness, we acknowledge your infinite glory and the abundance of your gifts. Before the foundation of the world, you appointed Christ the beginning and end of all things. Your Chosen One, Jesus, restored Mary Magdalene to health of body and of mind, and called her to be a witness of his resurrection. Faithful till the end at the foot of the cross and the first to see him after the resurrection, she became the Apostle to the Apostles. May her faith, courage, and boldness serve as inspiration to us. Amen.

(Taken from: Mary Magdalene Catholic Community, Worship Aid, July 26 2020; <https://www.mmacc.org/>)



Lesson - Thunder Perfect Mind

I was sent by the Power and came to those who thought of me. I was found by those who sought me. Behold me, ye who thought of me. And ye who wanted to hear me, listen to me. And ye who expected me, accept me. And do not drive me away from before your eyes. And let not your voice or your ear hate me. Do not ignore me anywhere or at any time. Be careful, do not ignore me, for I am the first and the last. I am the honored one and the despised one. I am the harlot and I am the saint. I am the woman and I am the virgin. I am the mother and I am the daughter. I am barren and I have many children. I have many husbands and I am unmarried. I am the physician who heals and I am the one who wounds. I am the bride and I am the bridegroom. I am the mother of my husband and my husband is my father. I am the daughter of my husband, and my husband is my son. I am the sister of my husband and my husband is my brother. I am the slave of my father and I am the mistress of my son.

Gospel - Gospel of John

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look[a] 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 around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" 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 touch 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.

Prayer List

For Healing, Recovery from Illness and Wellbeing

*Jen Petsche
Megan,
Elke
Craig Snapp
Ann Holmes
Ken Chapman
Blair Blundon
Fr. John DiGilio
Bess DiGilio
Myint Myint Aye
Carrie Aitkins
Magdalena Dargue
Dorothy DiGilio
Melissa DiGilio-Busch
Bonnie
Marie Hoffman
Rev. Joe Revels
Nichelle Rogers
Rob Penman
Jake Stratton-Kent*

*Joyce Masters
Matthew Duncan Masters
James Mitchell
Jennifer Mitchell
Chandra Fundak
Chris Schuck
Emanuel Newell*

For Peace, Healing, Relief from Stress and Distress

*Megan
Kylie
Jason Mehmel
Ingrid
Shaun McCann
Brad Rees
Grace
Winston, Audrey, and Daniel
Mar Thomas
Danu and Karel
Stephen and Valis Porter*

Other Matters

*For all those affected by
COVID-19
Jon Vandergaag for relief
from pain and distress
For the people of Burma
For the people of Ukraine
Kyle for relief from financial
distress*

For the Repose of the Soul

*Ellen Garrick
Jeff Lynch
Rev. Julia Knight*

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2022 Meeting Schedule

Brisbane

West End Uniting Church Hall
12:30 (service begins after set-up)
July 3rd
October 2nd
December 4th

Maryborough

Community Recreation Centre; Ariadne St
10:00am
Third Sunday of the Month (from July)

Online

Lectio Divina - via Zoom and Live Stream
6:30pm - 2nd Sunday of the Month

Toowoomba

Harlaxton Community Hall
Time TBA
August 7th

For further details please contact Fr. Brenden

