

## ***Parish of Ribbleton***

St. Mary Magdalene (SMM) The Ascension (ASC) -Longsands (LS)

***Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July***  
***Feast of St Mary Magdalene***  
***8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity***

***Alleluia! Alleluia!***

*Jesus said: 'Go to my brothers and tell them,  
"I am ascending to my Father and your Father,  
to my God and your God."'*

***Alleluia! Alleluia!***

### **PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

Almighty God,  
whose Son restored Mary Magdalene  
to health of mind and body,  
and called her to be a witness to his resurrection:  
forgive our sins and heal us by your grace,  
that we may serve you in the power of his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen

### **FIRST READING (Song of Solomon 3:1-4)**

All night long on my bed I looked for the one my heart  
loves;  
I looked for him but did not find him.  
I will get up now and go about the city, through its  
streets and squares;  
I will search for the one my heart loves.  
So I looked for him but did not find him.  
The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in  
the city.  
'Have you seen the one my heart loves?'  
Scarcely had I passed them when I found the one my  
heart loves.  
I held him and would not let him go.

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 42:1-2,4-5,8)**

*The response to the psalm is:*

**My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.**

As the deer pants for streams of water,  
so my soul pants for you, my God.  
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.  
When can I go and meet with God? **R/**

These things I remember as I pour out my soul:  
how I used to go to the house of God,  
under the protection of the Mighty One,  
with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng. **R/**

Why, my soul, are you downcast?  
Why so disturbed within me?  
Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him,  
my Saviour and my God. **R/**

By day the Lord directs his love,  
at night his song is with me –  
a prayer to the God of my life. **R/**

So if anyone is  
in Christ,



there is  
a new creation.

2 Corinthians 5.17

**SECOND READING** (2 Corinthians 5:14-17)

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves

but for him who died for them and was raised again.

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view.

Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!



**GOSPEL** (John 20:1-2&11-18)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said,

‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!’

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying.

As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her,

‘Woman, why are you crying?’

‘They have taken my Lord away,’ she said, ‘and I don’t know where they have put him.’

At this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realise that it was Jesus.

He asked her,

‘Woman, why are you crying?’

Who is it you are looking for?’

Thinking he was the gardener, she said,

‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.’

Jesus said to her,

‘Mary.’

She turned towards him and cried out in Aramaic, ‘Rabboni!’ (which means ‘Teacher’).

Jesus said,

‘Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father.

Go instead to my brothers and tell them,

“I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”’

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news:

‘I have seen the Lord!’

And she told them that he had said these things to her.

## Sunday Reflection

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of St Mary Magdalene, the patron saint of Ribbleton Parish Church.

St. Mary Magdalene is one of the greatest saints of the Bible and a legendary example of God's mercy and grace.

The Gospels recall that Mary was originally a great sinner whom Jesus saved.

After this, she told several women she associated with, and these women also became followers.

What she did in her life, after meeting Jesus, was significant.

During Jesus' ministry, it is believed that Mary Magdalene followed him, and helped support his ministry. Mary likely watched the crucifixion from a distance along with the other women who followed Christ during His ministry.

Mary was present when Christ rose from the dead, visiting his tomb to anoint his body only to find the stone rolled away and Christ, very much alive, sitting at the place they laid Him.

She was the first witness to His resurrection.

Mary Magdalene gives us an example of how no person is beyond the saving grace of God.

She also gives us an example of how the Christian faith is about faithful service and witness to Christ.

Her immediate action after encountering Jesus and being saved was to serve him and go out and tell others about God's love and saving grace.

Today Jesus continues to make a difference to people's lives through the work and faithful witness of his church and followers.

On this Patronal Festival celebration let us reflect upon how does our church show compassion for those in need.

We may not think we have much to offer.

Do we see that in God's power we can make a difference for good in our parish and to people's lives?

I'm reminded of 'The Starfish Story' by Loren Eiseley:

*One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking up and gently throwing things into the ocean.*

*Approaching the boy, he asked.*

*"Young man, what are you doing?"*

*The boy replied,*

*"Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The Surf is up, and the tide is going out.*

*If I don't throw them back, they'll die."*

*The man laughed to himself and said,*

*"Do you realize there are miles of miles of beach and hundreds of starfish?*

*You can't make any difference."*

*After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the surf, then smiling at the man, he said:*

*"I made a difference to that one".*

Love and prayers,

***Captain David***

## ***Intercessions***

God, our Father, as we celebrate our feast of St Mary Magdalene, we give you thanks for our parish church, for its building, and for the privilege of worshipping you without fear.

We ask your blessing on all churches dedicated to St Mary Magdalene.

May your Spirit dwell in us, so we too can say, "I have seen the Lord."

We thank you for all who have prayed and worshipped you here through the years, and for those who have ministered to your people in this parish.

Let your blessing rest on those who minister to us today.

We hold before you our bishops, Julian, Philip, and Jill, and pray for Fr Keith, Fr Chris, Captain David and Linda as they work among us. Open our eyes and our hearts to encourage and support support them in their ministry.

We ask your blessing on Jacqueline and Ron, our parish wardens, and on all who work with them to maintain the common life, worship and witness of our community.

We hold before you those churches and communities who are struggling to serve your children in the face of the disruption and devastation of covid, and those who live in fear and danger because of their faith. Renew them in faith and in courage, show us how to support them.

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

God, our Father, Mary Magdalene wept when she could not find Christ in her world, but her tears turned to joy when he spoke her name. We bring before you our world and its problems. May your voice be heard in every part of it and the tears of your creation become songs of joy.

Bless and guide those with power and authority, may they be open to your kingdom values and serve always the needs of the poorest and weakest among us.

Strengthen and encourage all who work to bring a vision of your peace into every conflict so that your creation may be delivered from all evil.

Be with those who struggle to maintain or rebuild their lives in the face of poverty or violence or natural disasters, and all who are displaced in refugee camps and temporary accommodation. May those who seek asylum and refuge find a safe haven. May we never turn our faces from their need.

We hold before you the people of China, Europe and North America, and all affected by flooding or fire. Give us, Lord, a new respect for your broken and damaged creation and a will to use its resources wisely.

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

God, our Father, Mary raced to share the good news of your resurrected Son with those around her. May we always be ready to share your gospel with those around us.

We pray for our parish, our neighbourhoods and our communities. Let your blessing rest on all who live and work and raise their families here.

May their homes be filled with your love and light, your warmth and welcome, your comfort and peace.

Comfort those of our neighbours who struggle with the demands and needs of daily life, and those who use the Community Pantry. May we be open to their needs and serve you by serving them.

Bless all who care for the needs of others: may they bring peace and calm fears.

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

God, our Father, Mary found healing for her fears and sorrows in your presence.

May those who come to this place, in distress of body or soul, find here your healing and refreshment. May they touch the beauty of your holiness.

We pray for those whose minds and hearts are in turmoil or whose lives lurch from crisis to crisis.

Give rest to the weary and hope to all who find their lives shattered by illness or injury. Comfort those who mourn the loss of a loved one.

We ask your blessing on all who need your healing touch, those named on our prayer list, those known to us and those known only to you.

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

God, our Father, in all our life and in all our living, may we be prepared for the life that is to come, and join with St Mary Magdalene and all your people who have made their journey through death into the glory of your kingdom.

We pray for those who are dying alone, unnoticed or unprepared, and for all who have died this week in the ongoing conflicts and disasters of our world.

We commend to your love, all those who have worshipped here in the past, both those we remember and those known only to you.

We hold before you those who have died recently, and those whose anniversary of death is around this time.

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord,  
and let light perpetual shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace and rise in glory

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

God, our father, Mary sought to cling to Jesus. May we too always hold fast to our Saviour, and be ready to share his gospel as she did.

Confident in your love for us, we bring the silent prayers of our hearts - for ourselves and those we love.

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

*Merciful Father, Accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ Amen*

If you would like to sing:

We have a gospel to proclaim  
<https://youtu.be/I5wWRYq57EM>

As the deer pants for the water  
<https://youtu.be/peZudXt9faU>

For all the saints  
<https://youtu.be/21GTTM2TIYA>

I am a new creation  
[https://youtu.be/Teva2\\_x2aXo](https://youtu.be/Teva2_x2aXo)

Onward Christian Soldiers  
[https://youtu.be/fa\\_qE3hpVas](https://youtu.be/fa_qE3hpVas)

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### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August

9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

9:30am Eucharist at The Church of the Ascension  
11:00am Eucharist at St. Mary Magdalene

### Readings

*Exodus 16:2–4,9–15; Psalm 78:23–29*  
*Ephesians 4:1–16; John 6:24–35*

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### Mid-week services and activities

Tuesday 10am-- 12 noon – Community Pantry at ASC  
Tuesday 11am – Eucharist at Preston Private Nursing Home  
Wednesday 10am – Eucharist at SMM,  
church remains open for private prayer until 12 noon.

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**Baptism Preparation Class :**

Monday 26 July, 7.30pm at St Mary Magdalene's

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Don't forget the Community Pantry:  
open on Tuesdays 10am -12noon.  
Donations urgently needed.

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As our churches open up again, we need some  
**volunteers!**

Would you be willing to operate the PowerPoint  
system for our Sunday services at either St Mary  
Magdalene's or the Ascension? Full training given.  
Please speak to Fr Keith, Fr Chris or Captain David.

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We are drawing up a new rota for readers at St Mary  
Magdalene's. If you would like to be included on the  
rota please speak to Barbara.

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**PARISH OFFICE**

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**WARDENS – St Mary Magdalene**

Ron Hobson 793601

**WARDENS – Church of The Ascension**

Jacqueline Carter