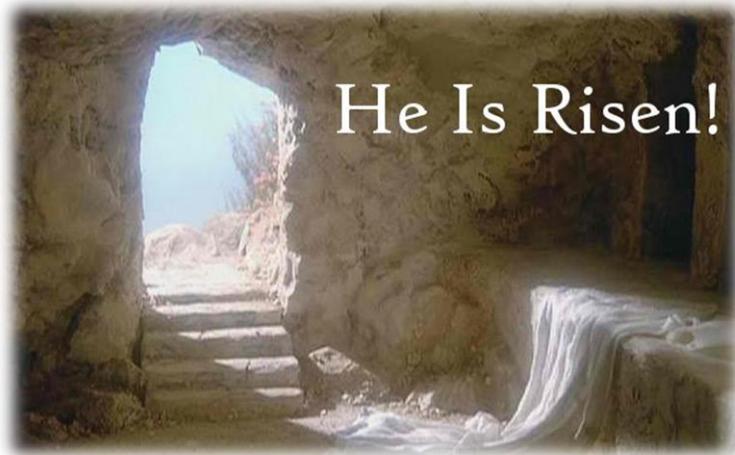


The Easter Triduum
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord



Whichever Gospel is read at Easter, the story has similarities. At dawn, with Sabbath restrictions over, the women went to the tomb. Matthew's account says Mary of Magdala and the other Mary; Mark says Mary of Magdala, Mary the Mother of James and Salome; Luke says Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, Joanna and other women; John says Mary of Magdala. What we can gather from this is that women were the first witnesses to the resurrection and it was they who spread the Good News to the disciples.



*Christians, to the Paschal Victim
offer sacrifice and praise.
The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.
Death with life contended: combat strangely
ended!
Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.
Tell us, Mary: say
what thou didst see upon the way.*

*The tomb the Living did enclose;
I saw Christ's glory as He rose!
The angels there attesting;
shroud with grave-clothes resting.
Christ, my hope, has risen:
He goes before you into Galilee.
That Christ is truly risen
from the dead we know.
Victorious King, Thy mercy show!
Amen. Alleluia.*



When I was young, my mother instilled in me the belief that Easter was the greatest Christian feast, much more important than Christmas. I loved it when she considered me old enough to be taken to the Easter Vigil. The fire, the darkness, the candles, the music all seemed magical to a young child. Since then, my experiences of the Easter Vigil and Easter morning Mass have only deepened my appreciation of the richness offered by good Liturgy. And that is what we are blessed to have at The Most Holy Trinity, Dockhead.

In his letter to the Romans St Paul says, “*when we were baptised we went into the tomb with Christ and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead... we too might live a new life.*” In baptism we have the symbols of holy water; a candle lit from the Paschal Candle; a white garment; the oil of catechumens and the oil of chrism. We are baptised in the name of the Trinity. Normally at the Easter Vigil and on the Easter Sunday Mass, we are invited to renew our baptismal promises and be sprinkled with the newly blessed water. This is our opportunity to make the baptismal promises our own, especially if we were baptised as infants. We affirm our belief in God and rejection of anything that would prevent us living in the freedom of God’s children when we say, “**I Do**”.



Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Exult all creation around God’s throne!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Christ has overcome death. We have walked with him through his Passion and Death and can now glory in his Resurrection. Let us rejoice today and sing in our hearts:

*Christ is Risen, Alleluia, Alleluia.
He is Risen indeed, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*We are an Easter people
and*



is our song