

SUNDAY PLUS

Seek life!

We all recognise the grief that drove Mary Magdalene to visit Jesus' tomb at the earliest opportunity, even while it was still dark. He had been buried very hurriedly ahead of the Sabbath with minimum time for the usual rites. That she was not expecting what she found is obvious because her first reaction was that Jesus' dead body had been removed by somebody.

Although Jesus had told them that he would rise from the dead his disciples' behaviour did not suggest that they believed him. It only begins to dawn on them gradually that there might just be truth in what he had said.

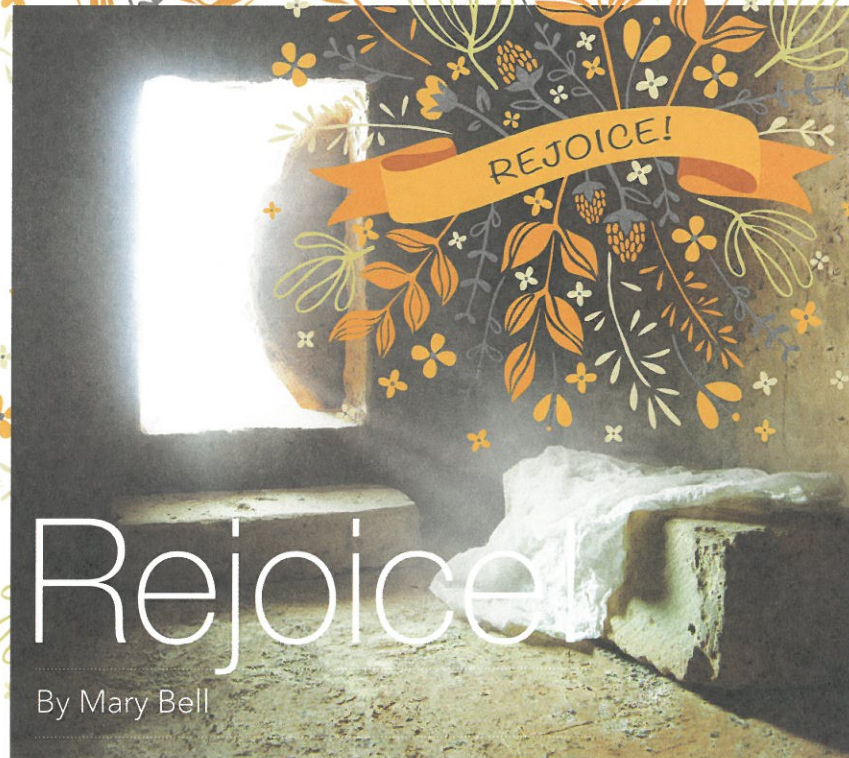
We do not need to run to the empty tomb. We believe that Jesus rose from the dead. His message is life – life after death – life in heaven with him for us all in glory.

St Paul says if Jesus has not been raised then our faith is in vain. He exhorts us to let our thoughts be on heavenly things not the things of this earth. Forget the eggs and young animals, symbols of life though they be. We were called to new life with Jesus at our baptism. His death conquered sin and washed us clean so that we too shall be raised from the dead to everlasting life with him.

So, we can celebrate this wonderful feast with joy and thanksgiving while we are on this earth in gratitude to our loving heavenly Father.

Rejoice and be glad. The Lord is risen indeed!

Following many years in the classroom, retired teacher and head of RE, Mary Bell now has time to enjoy the beauties of the natural world around her.



By Mary Bell

The Risen Lord is the hope that never fails, that does not disappoint. God's hope never disappoints! How many times in our life do our hopes vanish, how many times do the expectations that we carry in our heart not come true! The hope of Christians is strong, safe and sound in this land, where God has called us to walk, and is open to eternity, because it is founded on God, who is always faithful.

Pope Francis

Recalled to life

By Des Kelly

My mother suffered with very painful rheumatoid arthritis for many years. In the last days of her life, she was in a hospice. On the day before her death my mother told me that she loved me and that she knew I had always loved her so all was fine. She also told my brother that she prayed for him (he had a few problems at that time) and would continue to pray for him in heaven. On the day she died we attended Mass in the hospice. At Communion the priest placed a small piece of the Host on Mum's lips and

she made the sign of the cross. A few hours later she went to eternal life. I remember thinking how lovely that Mum had kept her faith to the end. I hope and pray that when I die my faith will be as strong as my mother's.

Des Kelly, a retired headteacher, now works to develop leadership in Catholic schools and parishes.

Risen Lord, be our resurrection and hope. Help us to celebrate your life and love. Give us the courage for new beginnings. Amen.



The Jubilee is about celebrating new life and about making every day an Easter experience.

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope A Jubilee of love

Love is a free gift which calls for an open heart; love is a responsibility, but a noble responsibility which is life-long; it is a daily task for those who can achieve great dreams!... Love is nurtured by trust, respect and forgiveness. Love does not happen because we talk about it, but when we live it: it is not a sweet poem to study and memorise but is a life choice to put into practice!... And when loving seems hard, when it is difficult to say no to something wrong, look up at Jesus on the cross, embrace the cross and don't ever let go of his hand... Jesus wants us to be up on our feet! Think of the beautiful word Jesus said to the paralytic: "Arise!" God has created us to be on our feet... So, arise! God wants us up on our feet, ever on our feet!

Pope Francis

Today:
Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Colossians 3:1-4 or
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8
John 20:1-9

Monday:
Acts 2:14, 22-33
Matthew 28:8-15

Tuesday:
Acts 2:36-41
John 20:11-18

Wednesday:
Acts 3:1-10
Luke 24:13-35

Thursday:
Acts 3:11-26
Luke 24:35-48

Friday:
Acts 4:1-12
John 21:1-14

Saturday:
Acts 4:13-21
Mark 16:9-15

Next Sunday:
Acts 5:12-16
Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19
John 20:19-31

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