

Motivation for John 20: 1-9

This Sunday we cry aloud '*Alleluia!*'. After journeying through Lent, accompanying Jesus through the wilderness we've refrained from saying it, waiting in anticipation and preparation for this day of days, this celebration of celebrations! We'll shout '*Alleluia*' from the rooftops, with renewed intensity as we finally celebrate what the word really means for us - Jesus' empty tomb, his conquering of death and victorious rising to new life!

The women, like the disciples in the aftermath of Jesus' crucifixion were heavy with anguish and sorrow. Their supposed Saviour, their leader and teacher, their beloved friend, suffered a torturous and humiliating death as they helplessly watched on afraid, confused and desolated. However, when arriving at the tomb and encountering the true reality of Jesus' death they were completely transformed! Mourning and weeping turn to joy and happiness, from lost to found, from death to salvation, to eternal life!

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is bursting with meaning for our lives, for where we are now and where God wishes to lead us. Do we trust that what Christ's resurrection did for him can be done for us too? That there is nothing beyond the scope of God's love to heal and the cross is the answer to all our fears and sufferings, that he is offering us a share in Christ's glorious new creation and restored humanity. Let us rejoice in this magnificent invitation, let us immerse ourselves in this boundless gift of love and mercy, by wholeheartedly and completely giving ourselves to Him. His question to us is, will we put to death our sin, and live in the newness of Christ's Easter life? Happy Easter to you, and on Sunday keep in mind us all shouting '*Alleluia*' in one united and victorious voice!