

St Marc Grenoble
Easter Day 4th April 2021
Mark 16: 1 - 8
Acts 10: 34 - 43
'He is Risen!!'

PRAY

In Mark's brief account of the resurrection, we're told Mary Magdelene and a small group of other women – went to the tomb early on the first day of the week (Sunday) – taking spices to anoint Jesus' body; to complete the normal burial ritual, which hadn't happened on Friday.

As they walked there, we're told they were worrying how to roll away the huge stone, which had been placed at the entrance to the tomb.

When they arrived, to their amazement, the stone had already been rolled away; and as they went in, they saw a young man in a white robe (an angel?!) telling them that Jesus – the Nazarene – 'is not here but risen!'

Mark tells us 'They were alarmed!' What an understatement – which could only have been written by someone who wasn't there!!

They must have been petrified!!

But, he showed them where the body had been lying and, sure enough, it was no longer there. The angel instructed them to go and give Peter and the other disciples a message – 'Jesus is going ahead of you, into Galilee – you'll see Him there, just as He told you!'

Today, with the benefit of hindsight, we're overjoyed to celebrate Jesus' resurrection as an amazing act of salvation!

But, imagine the shock, the confusion, which attacked those faithful women, who'd lovingly gone to anoint Jesus' dead body, when the body they'd come to tend was no longer there

And, despite – or maybe because of – the ministrations of the angel, they were terrified! Mark tells us: 'Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.'

That's it! The earliest reliable manuscript of Mark's Gospel ends there! Scholars actually believe there's a bit of the original manuscript missing. Both Matthew and Luke's Gospels, written later, continue to give

confirmation that Jesus had risen, and appeared to many of His disciples.

So, how should we, over 2000 years later, respond to Jesus' resurrection?

The angel in Luke's Gospel asked 'Why are you looking for the living among the dead?? Should we be surprised, or doubting? No way!

Earlier in Mark, after the Transfiguration, Jesus told His disciples not to tell anyone about it, until He'd risen from the dead. They weren't sure, at the time, what He meant. There was no doubt now - Jesus is risen!

By dying on the cross – Jesus, the Son of God, the Lamb of God, became the only sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

His death destroyed the barrier between us and God – symbolised by the tearing open of the curtain (to the Holy of Holies) in the temple.

Jesus' resurrection has 'cleared the way' for us to meet God face to face. His risen life removes all fear of death and propels us to proclaim His salvation, which is ONCE and FOR ALL - FOR EVERYONE!.

For me, the only response is to give my life in His service ... what about you? How will you respond to the call of the Lamb of God?

Let's Pray ...