

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA, MUMBLES
Reflection for
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, 12 April 2020
(May be used for Home Prayer Service)
Dominican Friars, Swansea

This reflection may be used during the home prayer service. Please see the home prayer service sheet for details.

HE'S LEFT THE TOMB

They wrapped his body in linen cloths according to burial customs and placed him in the tomb. But he was not meant to dwell in the tomb. No! The tomb was not his abode. He rose again. He is alive!

The tomb signifies sin and spiritual death. The empty tomb tells us that death is emptied of its power over humanity. By the power of the Risen Christ, humanity is set free from gloom and darkness, from the power of sin and death. Easter celebrates this victory over sin and death.

Dawn, First Day of the Week

Christ rose on the First Day of the Week. This signifies the "First Day" of a new creation; Easter ushers in a new creation in grace. It is the dawn, the birth, of a new order of creation, replacing the old order marked by sin (as seen in Eden). When the tomb stone was rolled away to let Christ out, the barrier between the old and the new was removed.

The old order of creation is based on nature (and all that is possible in the natural life). But the new is based on grace given us through Christ's Resurrection. The new transforms the old. The new creation based upon grace affords us a share in the life of the Trinity while on earth (by reason of the grace of the Sacraments). The grace of the sacraments comes from the Easter mystery. The grace we receive builds on and helps our human nature so that we can live lives worthy of Christ's disciples. The new order of grace also prepares us for a share in the beatific vision in eternity. The *Exsultet* (the Easter Proclamation) which is sung at the Easter Vigil proclaims that the Resurrection "sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices and from the gloom of sin, leading them to grace and joining them to his holy ones." We rejoice because the Resurrection of Christ has made all this possible.

Very Early and Still Dark

Mary Magdalene left for the tomb when it was very early in the morning and still dark. She made the decision to go out when she could not see far ahead. She was led by love; and love brought her light in the dark moments. When we set out on the path of a deeper relationship with the Risen Lord, there will surely come some dark moments. We do not at once see all that lies ahead. There will be moments of joy and gladness; but also, there will be trials and temptations. Yet, we must believe that the Risen Christ will shed his light on our path. We will continue, like Mary, to long for him, to do his will, to make him known. Our desire for and commitment to Christ will bring us light in the dark moments.

We must therefore rejoice and be glad, knowing that the Risen Lord, who has conquered sin and darkness, will lead us always until we see him in glory. The words of the *Exsultet*, once again, echo this joy. "Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King, let all corners of the earth be glad, knowing an end to gloom and darkness."