

Saints on a Mission

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Friday, April 9th 2021

WUNYA! *

We meet on the lands of the Turrbal & Jagera peoples of the Yugara nation

We acknowledge their traditional custodianship of Meanjin (*Brisbane*)

We pay our deepest respect to their elders – past, present, and future

We acknowledge that this land, the waters around and of this land were never ceded by fair dealing, treaty or just and honest means

This remains their traditional land – Always was - Always will be

**Yugara (Brisbane area dialect) for "Welcome!"*

S. Mary of Egypt

(c. 344 – c. 421 CE)



Detail of a C15 CE miniature of Mary of Egypt, covered in golden hair, being handed a cloak by S. Zosimus, at the beginning of her suffrage. – British Library

A highly venerated fourth or fifth century Desert Mother, who retreated to the wilderness beyond the Jordan after living a fairly dissolute and scandalous life in Alexandria. The patron saint of penitents, in this season of Easter how do we reconcile our own failings with the Gospel truth of Christ's Death & Resurrection which has wiped away all sin?

“And when she last died,
With burning tender in her eyes, her hair dark flame,
The golden Lion came;
And with his terrible claws scooped out a tomb,
Gently, in the loose soil,
And gave that dry burnt corpse to the earth's womb”

“Maria Aegyptica” – John Heath Stubbs (1948 CE)

Reading: Acts 4: 1-12 (NRSV)

While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead. So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who heard the word believed; and they numbered about five thousand. The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

"the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone."

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'



Mary of Egypt – Jose (Jusepe) de Ribera (1591 – 1652 CE)

For the Psalm

*(Throughout Eastertide, we will continue to follow Malcolm Guite's responses to the Psalm set for the day from his latest book "David's Crown")
Today's Psalm portion is Ps 118: 21-29 "Confitemini Domino"*

**R: O give thanks for God's goodness and steadfast love
which endures for ever**

That we might shine amidst the seraphim
He made himself much lower than the angels
And dwelt with us that we might dwell with him.

**R: O give thanks for God's goodness and steadfast love
which endures for ever**

He did not stay amongst the cloudy symbols
Of abstract speculation but became
The cosmic cornerstone. And so all angles
Of our approach to God must meet in him.
And yet he was the stone that we rejected,
Though every builder must be built in him,
His one true light in every life refracted.

**R: O give thanks for God's goodness and steadfast love
which endures for ever**

This is his doing – it is marvellous!
In each of us his image is reflected
Like light upon a stream, I trace its course
Upstream towards the fountain whence it flow
And end in my beginning and my source.

**R: O give thanks for God's goodness and steadfast love
which endures for ever**

Before the Gospel
Taize: "Confitemini Domino"
(*"Alleluia"* © 1988)



Icon of S. Mary of Egypt surround by scenes of her life C17 CE – Beliy Gorod, Russia

GOSPEL John 21: 1-14

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.



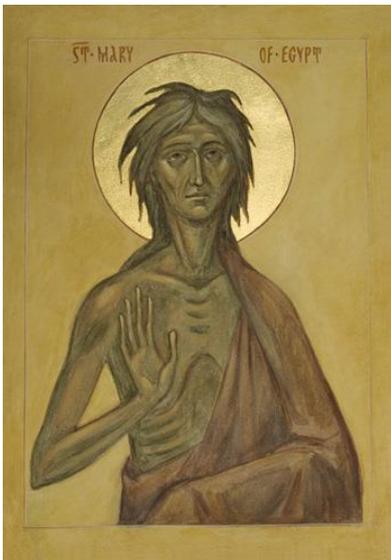
Michiel van der Borch, Miraculous Draught of Fish
From *Rhine Bible* by Jacob van Maerlant
Dutch (Utrecht), 1332
The Hague, Meermano Museum

REFLECTION

Repentance is about self-awareness. In that moment before she prayed to the icon of the Theotokos, when she stood in the corner wondering why she couldn't get in to the church, Mary became aware that she was a sinful person, and that it mattered. I'm sure up to that moment she had lived her life doing whatever she felt like doing, satisfying her own desires, and believing that it didn't make any difference. But God in His mercy gave her the experience of seeing that her behaviour did matter, and that it prevented her – literally! – from coming close to him. That, I think, is the object of repentance – not to wipe the slate clean, not to hit the “reset” button, but to come closer to God.

The first step in coming closer to God, I think, is seeing ourselves as we really are. Not as we think others see us, not as we want others to see us; and not as our parents told us we would turn out, either. But as we really are, with all our pretences and defences stripped away. Self-awareness is seeing ourselves as God sees us.

Melissa Nassiff, 31st March 2010 – Sermon, S. Mary Orthodox Church, Cambridge MA
<https://www.stmaryorthodoxchurch.org/orthodoxy/sermons/2010/st-mary-of-egypt>



PRAYER (from AAPB p. 641 – Collect for A Monastic or Ascetic)

O God, whose blessed Son became poor so that we through his poverty might become rich: deliver us from an inordinate love of this world, so that, inspired by the devotion of your servant Mary of Egypt, we may serve you with singleness of heart, and attain to the riches of the age to come, though Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reign with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **AMEN**

Let us hold ourselves, each other and all of Creation together in our minds, hearts and souls

Prayer Response: Risen Lord, hear the prayers we offer

Jesus, Risen Lord, let the light of resurrection shine throughout the world and empower your ministers to faithfully proclaim your death, resurrection and new life and forgiveness for all people. We remember today in our Anglican cycle of prayer:

The Diocese of Bermuda – Extra Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury

The Diocese of Canberra-Goulburn: †Mark Short; Assistant Bishops – †Trevor Edwards, †Stephen Pickard, †Carol Wagner; Clergy and People

The Parish of Leichhardt-Chinchilla Anglican Mission Area (LCAMA): Vacant

SAILS Anglican Sailing Adventures in Life Skills Ministry – Gold Coast, Bayside, Sunshine Coast

St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School, Corinda: Principal – Toni Riordan; Chaplain – Gillian Moses; Chair of School Council – Stephen Green; School Council members; staff & students

Parishes seeking new incumbents: Algester, Brisbane (All Saints), Auchenflower-Milton, Caloundra with Glasshouse Country, Chelmer-Graceville, Gayndah, Holland Park, Kingaroy, Lutwyche, South Brisbane, Surfers Paradise, Tamborine Mountain.

Candidates for Baptism this month: Zikora, Harriet, Franklin, Billy, Xavier, Flora, Isabella, Chloe, Davina, Jack, Kendall

Today's "Cathedral Compassion": Those suffering through abuse of alcohol, drugs & gaming/ For all Universities in the State

Outreach Through Offerings: *ABM Easter Appeal: The Coming of the Light – Mission and Ministry in the Torres Strait*

*Risen Lord, **hear the prayers we offer***

Jesus, Risen Lord, we hold in prayer the regions of the world where peace is elusive and your people suffer. Remember especially the people of Myanmar and hold your Palestinian, Rohingya, Syrian, Iraqi, Uighur, Israeli, Kurdish, Somali, Sudanese, Yemeni & Afghani peoples to you.

*Risen Lord, **hear the prayers we offer***

Jesus, Risen Lord, we hold to you those unjustly held on Nauru & Manus Islands and throughout the mainland of our country, with particular prayers for the family from Biloela on Christmas Island, and for their safe return from imprisonment.

*Risen Lord, **hear the prayers we offer***

Jesus, Risen Lord, remember the ancient peoples of this land, the First Nations and Sea Peoples, shine into the hearts of all so that true reconciliation and love will grow and heal the wounds of centuries of pain and suffering.

*Risen Lord, **hear the prayers we offer***

Jesus, Risen Lord, we hold to you those affected by extreme weather conditions in Timor Leste and Indonesia, especially holding those who have lost their lives in this tragedy. Guide us in our care for the Earth and for those suffering as a result of our mismanagement of this glorious gift you have given us.

*Risen Lord, **hear the prayers we offer***

Jesus, Risen Lord, we lay before you those who have asked for our prayers, names that we see before us daily, and those who have no-one to care for or to pray for them. Leave no-one alone, no-one without compassion and no-one without hope. We hold those names in silence to you now.

Yvonne Kelly, Jennifer Godwin, Sherri Laurie, Barry, Lyn & Samantha Rees, Lynne Mortimer, Dorothy Martin, Claire Gourlay, Alex McConnell, Dugald Hutchings, Angus Hutchings, John Miesen, Melissa, Benjamin, Mavis & John Ralph, Bob & Elise Thomas, David & Wendy Clark, the Martin Family, Alwyn Hayes, Benjamin, Pamela Frost, Margaret McNickle, Julie Rogan, Pete, Gwen Trow, Patricia Elkins, Tony Howe, Steve, Lorna, Bill, Mygyn, Steph, Jeff, Eve & Nathan Oslo-Stevenson-Edwards, Graham Dorman, Michele Underwood, Douglas, Jamie Evans, Heather & Tom Wood, David Roser, Jose Hernandez, Sharon Mitchell, Sarah Weston, Caroline, Phoebe Killy, Edward Kernke, Franklin Murphy, Lorraine, Lorna Strehlau, Ada Macey, Terry Albone, Alex Gater, Ian Harper, Sherril, Glynis & Denzil Scrivens, Cheryle Edwards, Sam Gunders, Albert Matthews, Richard Gillard, Caroline & Mike Meyer..

*Risen Lord **hear the prayers we offer***

Jesus, Risen Lord, through your conquering of death, we know there is a life eternal promised in your presence. Remember now those recently departed – Stephen Harrison and Ann Jones – especially hold to you those who mourn their passing. We give you thanks for the life and work of David Boughen, Christina Boughen, Silas Edwards, whose Year's Mind occurs today, and Paul van Batenburg, Adrian Charles (Bishop) for tomorrow



*Rest eternal grant to them, Merciful God,
and may your light perpetual shine upon them.
AMEN*

LEAVE TAKING

(Sonnet for Station XV: Easter Dawn – Malcolm Guite ©2012 CE)

He blesses every love which weeps and grieves
And now he blesses hers who stood and wept
And would not be consoled, or leave her love's
Last touching place, but watched as low light crept
Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,
Or recognise the Gardener standing there.
She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why,
Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light
That brightens as she chokes out her reply
'They took my love away, my day is night'
And then she hears her name, she hears Love say
The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.



FOR THE BLESSING (APBA p705)

Praise the Lord, O my soul:
and all that is within me praise his holy name.

**Praise the Lord, O my soul:
and forget not all his benefits.**

The Lord forgives all your sin;
And heals all your infirmities.

**He saves your life from destruction:
and crowns you with mercy and compassion.**

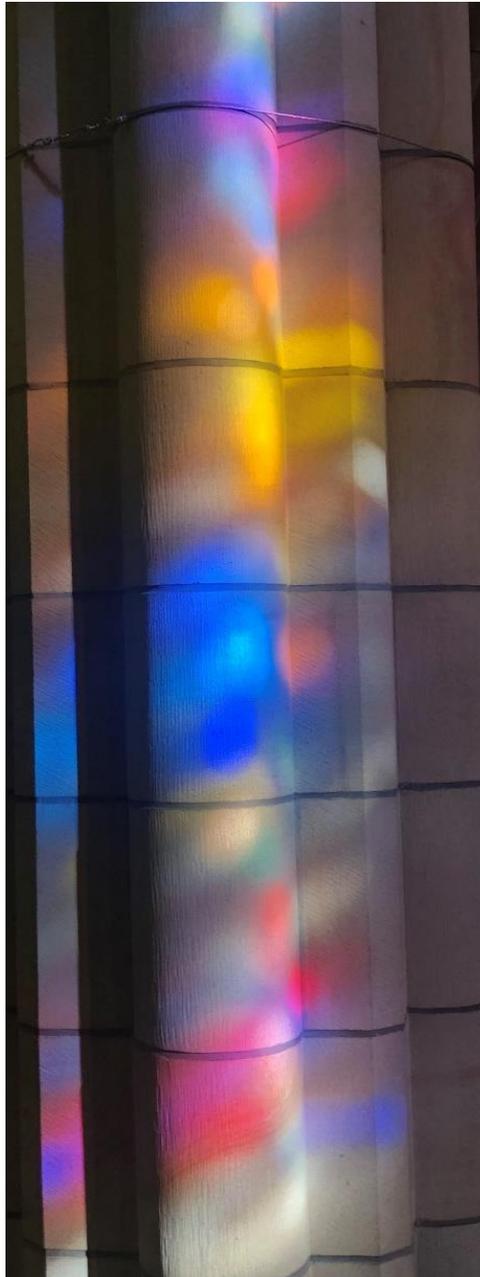
Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

THE GRACE

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the
fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us this day and for ever more.**

AMEN.



(This guided meditation & reflection was collated by Blair Martin, April 2021)