

Mary Magdalene in the Bible



Healed



Jesus went through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve disciples were with him, as well as some women who had been cured: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, Susanna and many others, who provided for them.
(Luke 8:1-3)

Mistaken Identity?



Faithful disciple



Many women were there when Jesus died, looking on from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee, and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

(Matthew 27:55-6)



When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, as soon as the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

(Mark 16:1-2)



At the empty tomb



And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. The angel said to the women 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus, who has been crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised'.

(Matthew 28:2,5-6)

First eye witness



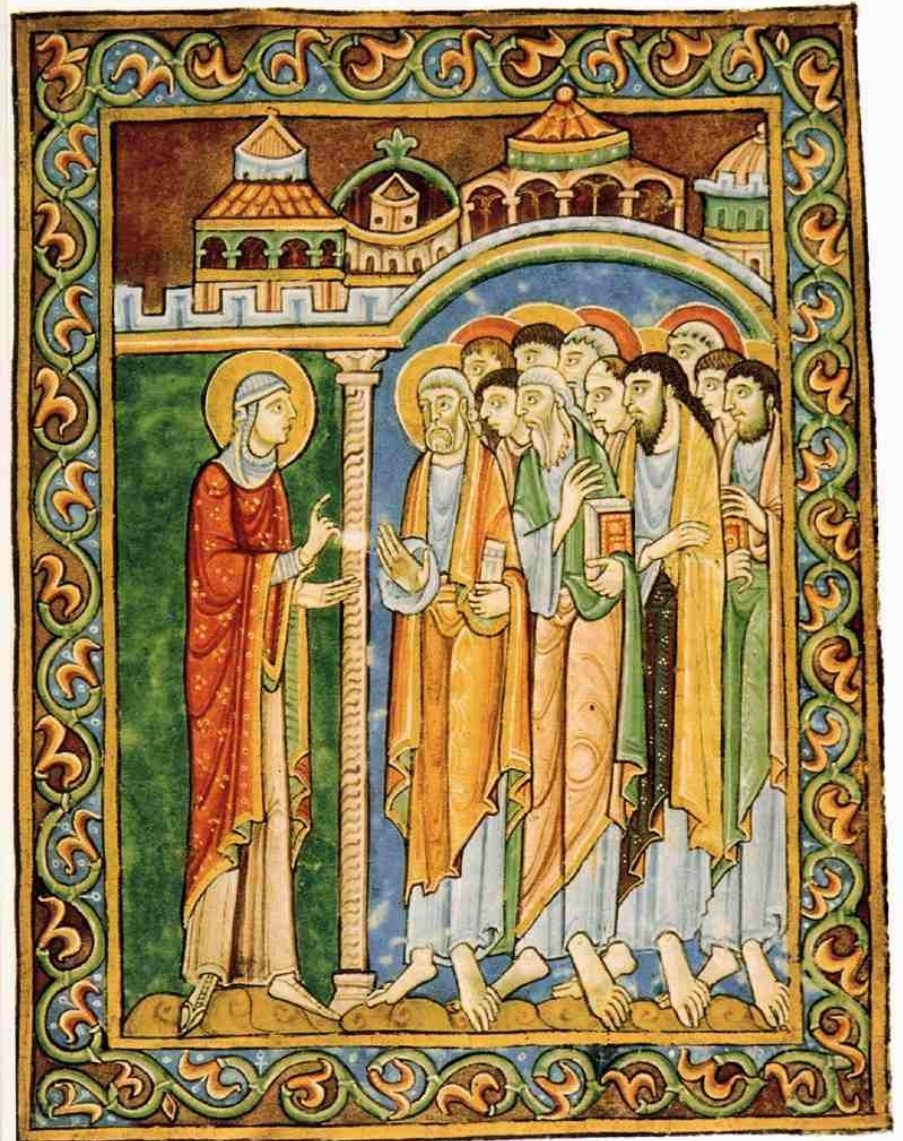
Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. Then she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Supposing him to be the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him. Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and answered 'Teacher!'.

(John 20: 11, 14-16)

Apostle to the apostles

Jesus said to Mary, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God”. Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’, and she told them what he had said to her.

(John 20:17-18)



Mary Magdalene

- Healed
- Faithful disciple
- At the cross
- At the empty tomb
- The first person Jesus appeared to
- The first person to tell people about the resurrection: apostle to the apostles...
- ...and the Patron Saint of our Church

A Prayer

Faithful friend of Jesus

Apostle to the apostles

Misunderstood and wrongly accused.

Guide us, O God, as with Mary Magdalene

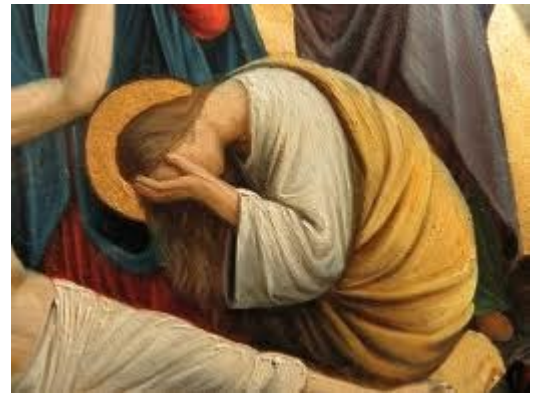
we tread new paths in our love for Christ.

May we be ambassadors of the good news

to your Church

And let your people rejoice

in the leadership of women.



Nikki Arthy, for Women and the Church