

St Paul to the Corinthians 15: 12-20

Luke 8: 1-3

Today we learn something about being in ministry and service to and for Jesus.

In the Reading we appreciate something of the missionary work of St Paul. Here, to the early Church in Corinth. He is earnestly presenting the reasons for believing in the resurrection of Christ. Something that we profess regularly in the Creed at mass. He argues that... 'His preaching and their believing would be useless if Christ had not risen and would be perjury, since he had sworn it to be true before God: If the dead are not raised, then Jesus would not have been raised either and the whole belief and purpose of Jesus resurrection, in freeing all from their sins, would be invalidated: More seriously, all who died believing in eternal life would have merely perished and, as a result, those listening to Paul would be left devastated and their hopes dashed.' In other words, why would he spend his entire life spreading the Good News if the facts were untrue?! His whole ministry, for the sake of the Good News would be a façade. No, "Christ HAS in fact been raised from the dead." As a result, they, and we too, will be raised.

Jesus spent his whole life spreading the Good News in all he said and did. In the Gospel we hear how people around him were called to believe in the same way that the Corinthians and we are called. They witnessed, first-hand, the redemptive powers that Paul later proclaimed. Among these were certain women who professed to their belief by providing and ministering to Jesus' needs, often out of their own means, up to, and even after, his death and triumphal resurrection. Our mission too is to proclaim our belief and provide in faith and love for Christ's sake.