

EASTER SUNDAY: C

Today let us reflect on the First Easter parade.

- On that Easter day there was an Easter parade!

A meagre one, to be sure, but nonetheless a **steady procession** to the tomb – at least in the Gospel of John.

- ❖ First is **Mary Magdalene** then the **beloved disciple** and then Simon – all marching to the tomb.

At first this account of John can seem disappointing

- **No angels** in dazzling clothes.
- **No resounding** message that Jesus has risen
- **No appearance** of the Lord himself: just a parade to the place of the dead.

The story of Easter then and now, moves

- from darkness to light –
- from grieving to believing.
- It is the darkness of grief, pain, loss, and the finality of death.

REASON FOR GOING TO THE GRAVE

Notice that in the Gospel there is **no mention of going to anoint** the body of Jesus or for any other reason.

Q: **So why does Mary Magdalene go there?**

She goes to the tomb simply because there is nowhere else she wants to be.

She loved him and she wants to be near what remains of him.

- ❖ She speaks to us today about the darkness that surrounds our lives: the darkness of **pain // suffering // regrets // and death**.
- There is darkness of hatred and violence like in Sri Lanka this morning,

- the darkness of natural disasters like the recent Cyclone Idai
- the darkness of the fires on the Notre Dame Cathedral that have brought gloom on the people of France and beyond.
- the darkness of drugs, any form of violence that takes the lives of the innocent.

All this underlines that the Easter story begins in darkness.

- But then comes something unexpected: the stone has been moved:
- ❖ What was meant to seal Jesus in is no longer there
- ❖ What was meant keep Mary out is no longer there and she comes to a logical conclusion that the body had been taken.

That rolled stone is indeed the first clue that something has happened.

Mary doesn't even look into the tomb.

- She immediately runs to tell Simon and the disciple Jesus loved: ***"They have taken the Lord from the tomb...."***

And this report sends them racing to the tomb.

CONCLUSION

My brothers and sisters, we are part of the ongoing Easter parade // of people who know that death is not our destiny.

- Sometimes we are crawling,
- sometimes stumbling,
- sometimes running, but always we are moving toward the light of dawn

John's Gospel gives importance to the act of seeing.

We are told Peter saw cloths; but only the beloved disciple sees and believes.

Remember the deepest kind of seeing in John's Gospel is to look with the eyes of faith.

Shall we please stand and renew this faith through the renewal of our baptismal promises.