

GOSPEL PEARLS

Christians cannot renounce the announcement

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14_04_2020



But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you

have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for 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 that he had said these things to her. (John 20: 11-18)

In Mary Magdalen's case, simply hearing her name lovingly pronounced by Jesus is all that she needed to recognise Him. The joy of having Jesus again with us each and every day until the end of the world (and even afterward) mustn't be restrained. Rather, it must be announced and shared with everyone, as Jesus asked Mary to do. Christians cannot renounce the announcement of Jesus's Resurrection, because Christianity is a missionary faith, everywhere and at all times. May we never forget to bear witness to others of our faith in the risen Jesus, with our words and, above all, with our deeds that are in line with the teachings of the Gospel.