

# Jesus' friends find his tomb empty

Joe Sarnicola/Contributing writer

The first light of the sun was still an hour away as Mary of Magdala walked slowly and sadly to the tomb where Jesus had been buried. She remembered the events that had led to his arrest by the soldiers, his trial and his sentence of death on the cross. She wiped a tear from her eye. As if the loss of Jesus did not upset her enough, what she found at the tomb was even more distressing. The heavy stone that had sealed the entrance to the tomb had been moved and the grave was empty. Mary ran to find Peter.

Peter was with John when Mary reached him. Mary was out of breath when she told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." The disciples ran to see the tomb for themselves. John ran faster than Peter did. When he arrived at the tomb, he looked in and saw some of the burial cloths that had been wrapped around Jesus. He wondered what could have happened to Jesus.

Peter went inside and found another burial cloth neatly rolled up, near the others. John came in and he and Peter looked at each other in disbelief. Jesus was gone. They went back home, not realizing the meaning of the Scriptures that Jesus would rise from the dead.

But Mary of Magdala stayed at the tomb to be alone and to cry. As she happened to look into the tomb, she saw two angels in white. They were standing where the head and feet of Jesus had lain. One of them



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

asked Mary a question.

"Woman, why are you weeping?"

"They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him." As soon as she had said this, a man from behind Mary asked her another question. He had disguised his appearance, so Mary did not recognize the man as Jesus.

"Whom are you looking for?"

Mary, thinking the man was the gardener, told him, "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you

laid him, and I will take him." Then the man said Mary's name, and she immediately knew who he was.

"Teacher!" she said.

"Go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am going to my Father and your Father, and to my God and your God.'"

Mary ran as fast as she could back to the disciples. "I have seen the Lord!" she told them.

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John 20

## Q&A

1. Where was Mary going in the morning?
2. Who was the man who called Mary's name?

## Bible Accent

Many biblical people had names with special meanings. The name Jesus, the same as the Old Testament name Joshua, means "God is our salvation." The word Adam, the first man God created, means "human." God changed Abram's name to Abraham because he was going to be "father to a host of nations." An angel changed Jacob's name to Israel because he had prevailed over both human and divine beings. Samuel means "the name of God." Ezekiel means "strengthened by God." Because of what he did to Jesus, the name Judas came to mean "betrayer." Jesus called Peter "the Rock."

The Bible says God knows us by our names. Do you know the meaning of your name?

## St. Waudru

St. Waudru's parents, sister, husband and four children have all been canonized as saints.

Her husband, Vincent, spent much of his time praying and studying in the abbey of Hautmont, which he had founded. Waudru then lived alone in a small cottage in a poverty that was satisfactory to her. Her sister invited her to come to live with her, but Waudru preferred the solitary life. Because she was well known for her wisdom and compassion, people visited her for advice and instruction. Waudru founded a convent to help those who came to her, while allowing her to have privacy.

Many miracles were attributed to her both before and after her death. We remember her on April 9.

## Puzzle

Using the first letters and the hints, answer the following:

Answers on page 13.

1. He was a son of Adam and Eve. (Genesis 4)  
A \_ \_ \_
2. How were Peter and Andrew related? (Matthew 10)  
B \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
3. Peter baptized this Gentile. (Acts 10)  
C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
4. A king and a shepherd. (2 Samuel 5)  
D \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
5. The twin brother of Jacob. (Genesis 25)  
E \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
6. We have been justified by this. (Romans 5)  
F \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
7. He created heaven and earth. (Genesis 1)  
G \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

## Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) in response to **If you had to speak at the trial of Jesus, what good things would you say about him?**

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to *Catholic Courier*, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Dead-

line for entries is April 17. The winner will be notified by phone. The winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of *Kids' Chronicle*.

Last month's winner was Sage Keber, a fifth-grader from Naples who is homeschooled. In response to **Why are lay ministers so important to our churches?** he wrote, "Lay people help run the church. Some are volunteers and some are paid. If the pastor did everything in the church, progress would be slow. That is why lay people are important. The people in the church need to work together like a community, for many people are needed to preach the Word of God."

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