

Christ is Risen



Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers

Several faithful women followed Jesus during his journeys and public ministry. They attended to his needs and those of the apostles. They did not abandon Him during His passion and some even remained at the cross to witness His death. These women were determined to honor Him even at the tomb. Because of the time constraint (due to the Jewish sabbath), the burial was done hurriedly, immediately after the Body was removed from the Cross; the women came the first day of the week (Sunday), thinking that somehow the burial could be more fittingly be completed.

The women were *seek[ing] Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified* (Mark 16:6). “For their great dedication they received a precious gift from God, through the voice of an Angel, being the first to know that Jesus Christ was resurrected and saw the proof, an empty shroud lying in the tomb.”

Many modern Christians, unlike the myrrh-bearers, are not looking for Jesus the Crucified. They want a Christ who does not demand that we *take up [our] cross daily and follow [Him]* (Luke 9:23). The myrrh-bearers faithfully carried their crosses until death. Saint Mary Magdalen, for example, never ceased to lead a penitential life. Fourteen years after Our Lord’s death, she and five others “were put by the Jews in a boat without sails or oars.” They safely reached the shores of southern France. She lived the rest of her life as a contemplative in a cave known as Sainte-Baume. She died A.D. 77 when she was seventy-two years old.

(Sources and Quotations: [Saints to Remember](#), [Catena Aurea](#), [obitel-minsk.com](#))