**APRIL – EASTER SEASON**

**PRAYER SERVICE – Season of Easter**

Introduction: The Easter Season begins during the Easter Vigil Mass, April 11, 2020 and ends on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020

ALL: Sign of the Cross

Leader: *Opening Prayer*: One of the first people to meet the Risen Jesus after the Resurrection was Mary Magdalene. She was a good friend of Jesus and she was very upset when she came to the tomb on Easter Sunday and saw that the body of Jesus was gone. We are gathered here to celebrate the new life that Jesus brings.

Leader: Mary Magdalene was broken hearted when Jesus was killed on Good Friday. She was

 very sad. But all that changed on Easter Sunday when she became the first to meet the

risen Jesus. Let us listen to the story of how this happened.

Leader (raising arms) **Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

All: (raising arms) **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Leader: Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene : Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she

wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“They have taken my Lord away”, she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Jesus Appears to His Disciples: On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

All: (raising arms) **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Leader: We give thanks to God for this special time together to pray and to reflect on the happenings of Easter Sunday. May we always live as an Easter people with a spirit of joy and hope.

All: Sign of the Cross

“Prayer Service – Season of Easter” is excerpted from Dublin Diocese, “Prayer Service-for-Easter-Season.ppt” at education.dublindiocese.ie/wp-content/up…