

**The readings** are those for the Festival of **Mary Magdalene** and not of the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity. These are Isaiah 44: 6-8, Romans 8:11-25 Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43. The Sunday Link page and Look for Children, Roots Activity Sheet for Children are based on Trinity 6.

### **A Few Words on the readings for the Festival of Mary Magdalene**

**Song of Solomon 3:1-4** Love is continually active. It is imaginative and tenacious. No obstacle can stop its search for the beloved. Absence and solitude drive the lover to discover the beloved and love is renewed. This message can be seen in Mary Magdalene's determined search for her Lord and in the fulfilment that she finds as she meets Jesus in the garden.

**2 Corinthians 5: 14-17** Paul speaks of Christ's overwhelming love for us expressed in his death and resurrection and our need to return that love. The moment we accept his love we are changed for ever and become a new creation. We pray that, in the words of Wesley's hymn, Christ will finish his new creation by leading us into a perfect relationship with him.

**John 20:1-2, 11-18** Having sought her Lord and found him, Mary runs to tell others about him. She becomes the Apostle to the Apostles and gives us thus an example of mission which we, both as a church and individually, strive to follow. Let us pray that the re-opening of our church for worship on the Festival of Mary Magdalene may lead us into a greater witness to our community of the love of Christ for us.

Almighty Father, you have built up your Church  
through the love and devotion of your saints:  
inspire us to follow the example of Mary Magdalene,  
whom we commemorate today,  
that we in our generation may rejoice with her  
in the vision of your glory;  
through Jesus Christ Your Son Our Lord,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen

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O God, from living stones  
you prepare an everlasting dwelling-a place for your majesty.  
grant that in the power of the Holy Spirit  
those who serve you here  
may always be kept within your presence.  
this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen