

Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women



The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

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For they were afraid

Have you ever been afraid of something that was actually good for you? Maybe you were afraid of starting a new school? Or afraid of a shot at the doctor's office? Sometimes we might be scared of something that is really good for us, something that will help us.



Today we remember a group of women who felt that same way. After Jesus had died, some women came to His tomb so they could bring sweet smelling myrrh (like perfume) for the Lord's body. When they got to the tomb, they saw the tomb was open, and there was an angel there! The angel told the women, "He is risen. He is not here." The angel told them to tell the good news to Jesus's disciples.

Christ had risen! Shouldn't the myrrh-bearing women be happy? Shouldn't they be excited to tell everybody? Well, the Gospel tells us, "They said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." They were afraid of a good thing. They were afraid of something that was good for the whole world. They were afraid of something that would save the whole world!

Sometimes we might be scared of something. After a while, you might understand that the new school is good for you, or the shot at the doctor is good for you. Later on, these women began to understand the best news ever—Christ is risen!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Afraid
- Bishops
- Compassion
- Crete
- Gortyna
- Joy
- Light
- Loyal
- Myrrhbearer
- Resurrection
- Women

B	P	V	D	V	D	A	G	G	L	Y	J	L	B	R
J	J	D	Y	Q	N	Q	J	Z	L	I	W	W	Z	E
L	E	U	X	Y	P	J	Y	U	X	S	G	H	E	S
M	V	B	T	X	O	F	E	A	F	J	G	H	I	U
W	Y	R	J	V	G	W	F	J	J	D	L	D	T	R
Z	O	R	H	I	G	Q	Z	O	H	O	Q	R	A	R
G	M	J	R	V	Q	M	Y	I	Y	E	B	N	O	E
H	B	I	S	H	O	P	S	A	W	E	A	A	H	C
D	Z	J	B	Y	B	U	L	D	O	T	Q	G	L	T
Z	I	W	U	S	V	E	S	A	M	E	C	S	D	I
A	R	A	H	D	Q	N	A	K	E	R	C	V	C	O
G	P	K	R	X	X	L	O	R	N	C	M	L	S	N
S	J	W	I	F	C	F	L	Z	E	S	Y	S	B	W
Z	T	N	Z	S	A	J	E	R	R	R	J	X	Z	P
N	O	I	S	S	A	P	M	O	C	R	K	O	T	Y

RECEIVING THE LIGHT

ALL SAINTS OF GORTYNA AND ARCADIA, CRETE

Have you ever visited a house of somebody from history? Maybe you've toured the house of a president from long ago—like Mount Vernon, where George Washington lived. Or maybe you've seen the house of an author or another person. These are special places, where we think about how these special people lived.



Today we are still celebrating the Resurrection, but it's also the first Sunday of May. On this day each year, we celebrate all the saints who lived in Gortyna and Arcadia, on the beautiful island of Crete, in Greece. This place is special because there are so many saints from this area. This area has had Christians since the time of Saint Paul! In fact, the Bible tells us that Saint Paul stopped here on a ship, on his way to Rome.

Saint Paul directed his helper, Titus, to lead the Christian Church in this part of Crete. Saint Titus helped the Church grow and grow, and he passed on his special job to other Christian leaders. The Church in Crete grew so much, and many faithful people believed the Good News of our Lord's Resurrection. Thousands of people became saints because they loved God so much. And that's two thousand years of saints!

Gortyna and Arcadia are a wonderful example of how the Christian Church can grow. It can grow when we all spread the Good News that Christ has risen, and that He wants to save us all!

We celebrate these saints on the first Sunday in May.

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

You've heard of the myrrh-bearing women. But do you know their names?

Seven of them are here in the icon, but we know about eight: Mary Magdalene, Mary the Theotokos, Joanna, Salome, Mary the wife of Cleopas, Susanna, and Mary and Martha (Lazarus's sisters).

