

Easter Monday 06/04/2026

Without hopefully descending into a gender-biased "we saw him first" mentality, it's interesting to consider who does see Jesus first after his resurrection and if we bring the Beloved Disciple into the picture as well as the women today in Matthew's Gospel and Mary Magdalene also in John's Gospel, we can read this in terms of sight as understanding and this through the lens of love. The women, including Mary Magdalene, and the beloved disciple reach an understanding of Jesus as still with them because, in a sense, he has never left them. He stands among them still as the one they have always loved, a love expressed in their actions, in their desire to be with him both at the Cross and at the tomb. And their eyes are opened, as the tomb is opened, by love. In this sense the more we love the more we understand the nature of what it is to be resurrected. Or to return to the rainmaker imagery of Holy Thursday and yesterday's perception that blessing, or luck, builds on blessing. We can say with Carl Jung:

*"When someone tells me that in his surroundings, the wrong things always happen, I say 'it is you who are wrong, you are not in Tao (the path of nature). When one is in Tao, right things happen.'"*

This may also make sense of the other puzzling statement in Matthew's Gospel:

*"For to everyone who has more will be given."*

We could also perhaps see this dynamic at work in the conclusion of today's Gospel passage, where those who speak truly are enriched but those who lie are ultimately impoverished. Money is then, as always, tainted- and the gospel is never about material enrichment *per se*. Beware a church where money matters more than people.

Br John Mayhead  
Monastery of Christ Our Saviour