

was nowhere to be found. Distraught and weeping she finally came upon a Man who she thought to be the gardener. This Man asked her why she was weeping. She said to Him, "Sir, if Thou hast removed Him, tell me where Thou hast laid Him and I will take Him away." In answer, the Man - Jesus - said to her, "Mary." The reaction was immediate and tremendous. She had found Her Lord! He had returned as He had said that He would! He told her to go into the city and inform the disciples that she had seen the Lord and that He had risen from the dead. She ran! Arriving at the place where the disciples were, she breathlessly announced that she had seen the Lord. Mary Magdalen was the very first person to have seen the risen Lord after His Resurrection. (That Jesus appeared to His Mother before anyone else is an obvious conclusion, but so private was this that Scripture, even, makes no mention of it.)

How on earth can we come to any understanding of the ways of God? How unsearchable are His ways! The very first public word concerning His Divine identity was expressed by Christ to a nameless Samaritan woman who ran and told everybody about it. That woman was a messenger. The very first person to whom He appeared publicly after His Resurrection was to a woman whom He found weeping in the garden. Her name was Magdalen and she ran to announce his Resurrection. She too was a messenger.

AND BOTH OF THESE ESPECIALLY CHOSEN MESSENGERS OF HIS HAD BEEN SINNERS! □



THE HIGH ALTAR OF THE ABBEY CHURCH