

**Catechism Course 2021**  
**Clondalkin**  
**# 10 The Resurrection & Ascension**

The Paschal mystery has two aspects: by his death Christ liberates us from sin, and by his resurrection he opens the way to us for eternal life.

**"He descended into hell"**: 'Hell' here is *Sheol* in Hebrew- the place of the dead, rather than 'Gehenna' -the place of fire and damnation. In his death Jesus conquered death and the devil "who has the power of death" (Heb 2:14). He opened the gates of Heaven for the just who had gone before him.

**"On the third day he rose again"** : The Resurrection is a historical event which is attested to by the disciples, who really encountered the Risen Jesus. Christ, "the first-born from the dead" (*Col* 1:18), is the means by which we ourselves will be resurrected.

**"He ascended into Heaven and is sitted at the right hand of the Father"**: In his Resurrection Christ rises from the dead, in his Ascension he enters heavenly glory. He returns to the Father with his human nature. Humanity is now a human side: humanity is brought into the Father's glory. We, as members of his Body, may hope to be with him for ever.

**Further resources:**

Catechism 631-667

Morison F., *Who Moved the Stone?*

Ratzinger, J., *Behold the Pierced One.*