



a l'ombra de l'alzina
a la sombra de la encina
à l'ombre du chêne[^]
all'ombra della quercia
in the shade of the oak tree

Magdalena Aulina

15-04-2026

«Hail Mary!

My dearly beloved sister in the Lord: how much I delight in coming to this nest of our beloved Mother, addressing you and your sisters, imploring the help of your prayers, so that I may dispose my soul with such love and grace in the womb of my sweetest Mary, being able to say to her: “Mother! My Mother! Here is this small and miserable daughter of yours, that you may make her a useful, worthy and great instrument in the service of the Baby Jesus, the only one who loves and is loved by my little soul”.

Montserrat, please tell your brother Tomás that, thanks to his pen – which I always carry in my purse – I am able to write these few lines, while Carmen is busy making sure I am looked after and have everything I need. [...] I wait for it to pass, so that I may enter once and for all into the silence and stillness of my soul, trusting and abandoning myself into the arms of my tender and beloved Mother. Yes, tell everyone that I will pray for each and every one of them and speak to my Mother, and she, who is such a great Mother, will help me to do this well, trusting that all of you will take my smallness upon yourselves and accept my good will. [...]

Now I'm moving into my cell, which is St Benet's. It's spacious and sunny. How good Jesus is, my sister! Help me to ask him to teach me to be grateful.

[...] Please pray for this little soul who truly loves you. See you on Monday. I will keep you in my thoughts. Best wishes to you all,

Magdalena Aulina of Jesus, Mary and Gemma».

Magdalena used to visit the sanctuary of Our Lady of Montserrat, situated on a group of distinctive rocky hills, which appear to have been 'sawn' (from which the name Montserrat derives). She often went there with a family of friends from Banyoles, the Albiñana Roig family, who used to visit because Mr Albiñana had many friends among the monks at the Benedictine monastery of Montserrat. There, the monks were able to meet Magdalena as well. They soon realised that she was a special woman, and so they kindly allowed her to remain in the Sanctuary of the Virgin even after the closing time.

On one of those visits, Magdalena felt the need to go to confession, and at that moment she saw a monk walking towards the confessional. His name was Fulgencio María Albareda. When he knelt down, Magdalena did not even need to introduce herself, since the monk welcomed her warmly, telling her that he had been expecting her, because the Lord had let him know. During her stay, in the room of the Virgin Mary, Magdalena had prayed to grant her a holy and wise spiritual mentor who would guide her soul in accordance with the Lord's designs for her.

And so it was that in 1928, the monk Fulgencio Albareda became Magdalena's spiritual father. Without many words, the two met, understood one another, and felt that they had been providentially chosen by God. Father Fulgencio died a martyr in 1936, during the Spanish Civil War. He was beatified in 2013.

Father Albareda suggested that Magdalena should remain silent, providing a fundamental Christological basis for this by drawing a parallel with the Passion of Jesus – that is, with the attitude of silence that Jesus himself adopted in the face of suffering, accusation and unfair condemnation.

According to this interpretation, Magdalena would have faithfully embraced silence throughout her life, as a prudent response to the experience of misunderstanding and contradiction, making herself a victim united with Jesus, adopting Jesus' own attitude, for the salvation of souls.

Giving herself to God for the sake of souls is the heroic synthesis of her life: her sacrifice united with that of Jesus in the supreme work of redemption, renewed in every celebration of the Eucharist.

This is the theological core of the Christian faith, which in Magdalena becomes a mystical, total and complete experience.

It is from this profound experience of silence, surrender and total self-giving that today's letter also arises. It allows us to get closer not only to the events of her life, but above all to her heart, to her delicate and sensitive soul.

Here we can discover even more aspects of her spirituality. Her simplicity and her "smallness" come through clearly: she describes herself, in fact, as a "small and miserable daughter". She wishes only to be a "useful and worthy instrument" in the service of Jesus.

From her sunny cell in San Benet, her heart overflows with love and wonder: "How good Jesus is, my sister!" And her deep gratitude, which has accompanied her throughout her life and remains a precious guiding principle in her teachings.

And, of course, his deep devotion to the Virgin Mary is evident; let us remember that her Order was founded in the month of Mary in 1916.

We join our prayers to those of Magdalena to the Virgin "Morenita" of Montserrat:

Hail, Virgin Mary, Queen of Montserrat.

You are our hope, you are the health of the sick and the comforter of the afflicted;
look upon us, your children.

Protect our cities, our families, the sick, the young and the children.

O Queen of Peace,

spread your mantle over all the countries afflicted by war;
and transform hearts so that harmony may be restored among nations.

We entrust to you our love, our hopes and our lives,
that you may guide them towards your Son,
and through his love grant us the grace we ask you. Amen."

