

Easter at Home



Creative ways to reflect, engage and
celebrate at home this Easter



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Guide to Holy Week



Palm Sunday

Sunday before Easter. Celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Observed with palm branches, parades, and celebration.



Maundy Thursday

Thursday before Easter. Commemorates the Last Supper. Often observed with foot washing, stripping of the altar, and overnight prayer vigil to keep watch with Jesus in the garden.



Good Friday

Friday before Easter. Most solemn day of the church year. Observes the day Jesus was crucified. Observed by praying the Stations of the Cross and three hours of silent prayer while Jesus was on the cross.



Holy Saturday

Saturday before Easter. Observes the day Jesus was in the tomb. This is a day of somber reflection, reflecting on what we'd miss in a world without Jesus.



Easter Sunday

Hallelujah! Christ has risen! This day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Sing hallelujahs and celebrate with great joy.



Online Church Services

CATHOLIC

The **Archdiocese of Liverpool** will be live streaming Mass over Easter. For more info:

<http://liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/index.html>

CAFOD live stream liturgy for children every Sunday. Register using this link:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3142341965901274894>

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The **Church of England** is livestreaming weekly Easter services. For more info:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

Soul Survivor, Watford, are live streaming their services every Sunday. See their website:

<https://www.soulsurvivorwatford.co.uk/>

LOCAL

Long Lane church (who usually meet at the Academy of St Nicholas) are putting reflections, services and kids' work on their YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo4_8AMTJQ8s2uZWq6Hp-wg/videos

Freedom Church Liverpool (usually meets at Childwall Academy) are doing church online. For all the relevant info, go to their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/freedomchurchliverpool>

St Aidan's with All Saints, Speke, is live streaming services on Facebook. Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/spekecofe>

Frontline Church, Wavertree, are regularly streaming content on their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/frontlineuk>

St James in the City is doing daily evening prayer and Sunday services via Zoom which are open to all. To find out how to join in, see their website:

https://stjamesinthecity.org.uk/Groups/338609/Online_Services.aspx

Or check out what YOUR local church is doing...!

ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR maundy thursday



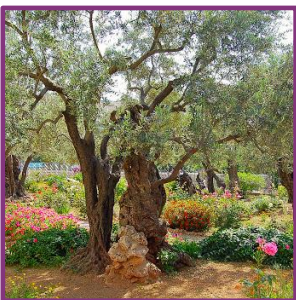
Feet Washing (John 13:1-17)

Jesus served his disciples at the Last Supper by washing their feet before they ate. You could get a washing up bowl full of bath bubbles and give a member of your household (or yourself!) a nice foot massage and reflect on Jesus' humility in coming to serve us and wash us clean. Or serve your household today by doing something sacrificial for them, like washing up or making dinner.



Bread and Wine (Matthew 26:17-25)

During the Last Supper, Jesus tried to explain what was going to happen to him, using bread and wine as metaphors for his body and blood. He asks us to remember the sacrifice he made on the cross every time we eat bread and drink wine. Read the Bible passage with your household and break bread together and share wine (or juice) together, remembering what they represent.



Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46)

After the Last Supper, Jesus went to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus prayed a very honest and emotional prayer, asking God to change his situation, but recognising that God's will had to be done. Find a quiet space – in the garden if you have one – and talk to God. Be honest with Him, he can take it. How about cutting out leaf shapes from green card, writing your prayers on the leaf and attaching them to a branch or drawing of a tree.

Jesus: "table for 26 please"

Waiter: "but there are 13 of you"

J: "yes but we're all going to sit on the same side"



The Last Supper

Colour me in!



*Jesus said to his disciples
“do this in remembrance of me”*

ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR good friday



Sin & Forgiveness Illustration

When Jesus died on the cross he took the punishment for all our sin. Watch this YouTube video which illustrates what Jesus did (and shows a clever science experiment). The details of how to recreate this at home are in the video description. Have a go and wow your family!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Z_SMrnEial



Make a Cross

Make a cross out of things you can find around your house – Lego, sticks, paper, lolly sticks, fabric, recycling, or other objects. Get creative!

You could make one out of paper and write some things that you are sorry for on it. We can ask Jesus for forgiveness any time. Then you could throw away or burn the paper to symbolise Jesus taking away our sins forever.



Stations of the Cross

Follow the Catholic tradition of praying the stations of the cross. One example of how to do this is given here: <https://mycatholic.life/catholic-prayers/stations-of-the-cross/>

Or read the story of Jesus on his way to the cross (Matthew 27:11-55) and create your own 'stations' of the different parts of the story. You could create stations in your house and carry the cross you've made to each of the stations, stopping to reflect on how Jesus would have felt.



Origami Cross

1 Fold in the dotted lines to make creases and fold back

2 Cut with a pair of scissors in the dotted line

3 Fold to make a crease and fold back

4 Fold in the dotted line

5 Fold to meet the center

6 Step fold in the dotted lines

7 Fold to make a crease and fold back

8 Open the pockets from the bottom and flatten

9 Step fold

10 Fold to make a crease and fold back

11 Open the pockets from the bottom and flatten

12 Turn over

13 Finished

A Cross

*Copyright: Fumiaki Shingu

Or watch this video tutorial to make a different kind of cross:

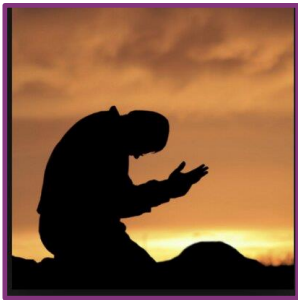
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZGwi62r58o&t=67s>

ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR holy saturday



Easter Garden

See what you can collect from around the house or garden to create your own Easter garden. Traditionally these include something to represent the tomb, and the stone in front of the tomb. Sometimes they include one or three crosses. They usually have flowers and stones in as well. There are some ideas below. Leave the tomb 'closed' for the duration of Holy Saturday and reflect on Jesus' time in the grave.



Silence and Prayer

Holy Saturday is traditionally a quiet day of reflection. Spend some time in quiet or silence today. Read the story of Jesus' burial and time in the tomb – Matthew 27:57-66.

Listen to this song which tells the story of Easter:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6duzVn5M6E>



Preparing for Easter

Prepare your house for the joyful celebration of Easter Sunday, when the tomb was found empty and Jesus had risen to life. Make signs and banners saying things like 'Hallelujah!' 'He is Risen!' 'Jesus lives!' and 'Happy Easter!' and decorate your house with them. Use bright joyful colours.



ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR easter sunday



The Risen Son/Sun

Get up early and watch the sunrise (6.18am on the 12th April) from your house or garden. This is a beautiful reminder of the new start Jesus gave all believers on Easter day. It symbolises Jesus, the Son of God, rising from death and giving all people the chance for eternal life. It symbolises the transition from darkness and death to light and life. Tune into a sunrise or Sunday morning Easter service live stream.



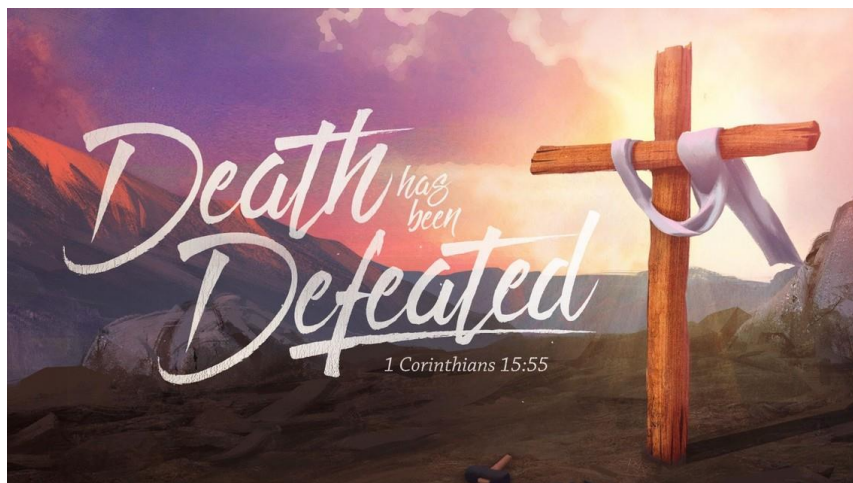
Easter Eggs

Some say that hollow Easter eggs represent the empty tomb and that eggs in general represent the new life Jesus gives. Set up an Easter egg hunt around the house/garden. Get some real eggs and blow and paint them (instructions here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OE19g_OCZms) – hang them up around the house to remind you of the joy of Easter!




Easter Party


Have an Easter party! Jesus is alive! Decorate your home with banners, balloons and anything else colourful. Open the tomb from your Easter garden. Put on music and dance. Eat party food and play party games together. This is a great party song all about Jesus being alive: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOkeWURZK_Q




The Easter Story



There was once a man called Jesus.
He was God's son.

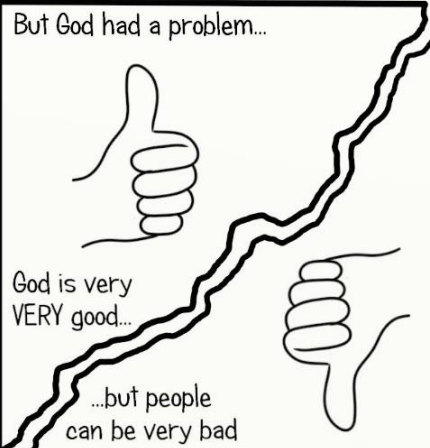


He was a very good man. In fact, he was the best man that ever lived.
He loved helping people and was always kind to everyone.



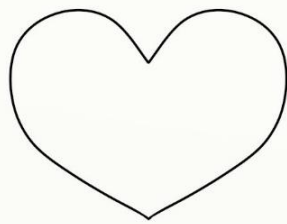
Sometimes we are naughty or mean to each other, but Jesus was never like that.

But God had a problem...



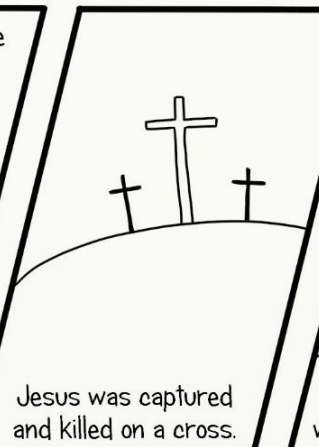

God is very VERY good...
...but people can be very bad

God LOVES all the people he made (that's you!) and wants to be friends with them...



...but people also need to be punished when they do things wrong.

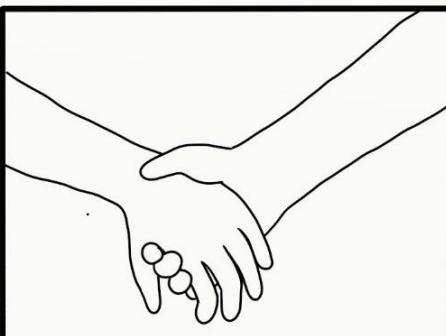
God decided to let Jesus be punished instead of us.



Jesus was captured and killed on a cross.




It was very sad but it was all part of God's big plan.



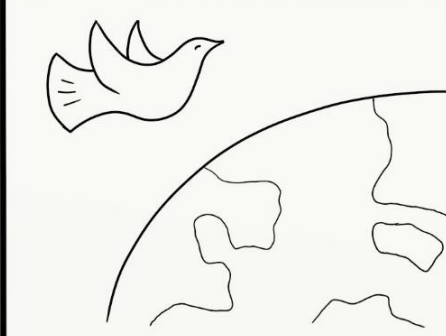
When Jesus died he took away all the bad things people have EVER done!
Now we can be best friends with God.

But the story didn't end there...



Three days later, Jesus came back to life! We celebrate this on Easter Day.

Now he is with his Dad in Heaven.
And we will be there with him too when we die. Forever and ever!



And whilst we're waiting, God sent his special friend called Holy Spirit to help us do what God wants us to here on Earth.