

SUNDAY APRIL 20TH

EASTER DAY



READINGS

ACTS CHAPTER 10 VERSES 34 - 43

GOSPEL: LUKE 24: 1-12

THE LORD IS RISEN

HE IS RISEN INDEED

ALLELUIA ALLELUIA

Loving God, on this happy day, we pray for those who are sad...

On this day of hope, we pray for those who are in despair...

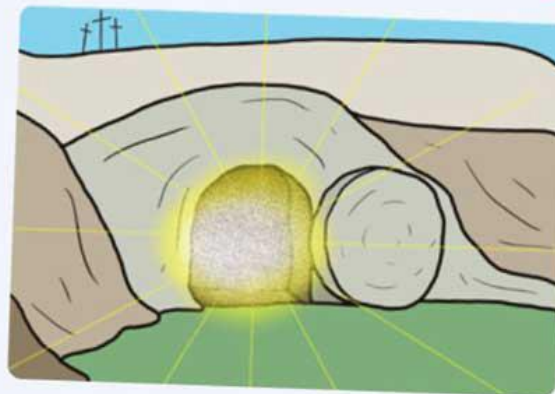
On this life-giving day, we pray for those whose lives
are marked by illness and struggle...

On this Easter Day, we pray for all creation and all the world that Jesus rose to save.

Amen.

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning ✨, Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Mary the mother of James came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared to anoint Jesus' body with. ✨ But they found the stone had been rolled away from the tomb ✨, and when they went inside, Jesus' body wasn't there. The women were very confused by this, when suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living in a tomb? He is not here. He is risen.'

The men in dazzling clothes continued, 'Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man ✨ must be handed over to be crucified, and on the third day he would rise again?' Then the women remembered Jesus' words. They rushed from the tomb to tell the eleven disciples and others the news. 'Jesus wasn't in the tomb. He is risen!' But the men listening



didn't believe them and thought they were making it up. So Peter got up and ran to the tomb himself. Stooping down to look inside, he saw the linen cloths just lying there by themselves. Then he realised that what the women had said was true. And he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Luke 24.1-12

Stop and share

Explain to the children what the tomb would have looked like.

The unnamed disciple was John, who was Jesus' close friend and the named writer of this Gospel.

He often refers to himself as Jesus' friend or the one Jesus loved, rather than writing his name.

Mary and the other disciples were not expecting the tomb to be empty. They were expecting to see Jesus' body in there, wrapped up as they had left him on Good Friday.

A version of the story for under 5s

Invite the children to choose a puppet to use, to help you tell the story: Mary, angels, Jesus.

Early in the morning, Mary Magdalene was sad. Jesus had died.

She went to the tomb – the place where Jesus' body was, but when she got there, the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, and Jesus' body was not there!

Mary fetched Peter and John, who saw the empty tomb and the cloth that had wrapped Jesus' body, but they didn't understand what had happened, so they went home.

While Mary was wondering what to do, two angels appeared, shining brightly.

They said, 'Why are you crying?' and she explained.

Then Mary saw someone who she thought was the gardener.

But it was Jesus! He had risen from the dead!

After speaking with Jesus, Mary was so excited.

She ran back to tell the disciples: 'I have seen the Lord!'

Luke 24.1-12

Mary Magdalene is the first to see the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb. She is the first to tell the other disciples that Jesus' body is no longer there. Simon Peter and John also come to see for themselves. Mary remains weeping by the tomb, where she sees angels in the place where Jesus body was laid. Still believing his body to have been stolen, Mary turns away and encounters a figure she at first supposes to be the gardener. But, when he says her name, she immediately recognises him as the risen Lord.

The witnesses to the astounding events of Easter saw them from different perspectives. We are invited to explore what the good news of the resurrection means to us today.

Under 5s Hiding in plain sight

Provide fabric/blankets for the children to hide under and then ask them to find a spot in your space to 'hide' in. Two leaders should help to find the children... exaggerate not being able to find them, before you joyfully spot their hiding places and say their names. Tell the children that you thought they were rocks/cushions, until you looked closer, a bit like Mary Magdalene thought Jesus was the gardener. She was so happy to hear Jesus call her by name.

Pop-up card

In advance, print the [egg and cross pop-up card templates](#) onto thin card. Give them out to the children with pens and crayons to decorate. Encourage them to give the cards to someone to share the good news of Easter.

CHILDREN [Running to the tomb](#) Actively explore the emotions of Jesus' friends

You will need: space for relay race, coloured ball-pit balls.

- Split the group into two teams at one end of the room. Ask the children to think about some different emotions that the disciples might have been feeling when they saw the tomb was empty.
- The two teams will take part in a relay race. When the first child of each team reaches the other end (the tomb), they should turn around and show their team what emotion they think a disciple may have felt (scared/sad/shocked, etc.) and grab a coloured ball that they think matches the emotion.
- The rest of their team must guess the feeling correctly, then the child can run back to them, for the relay race to continue.



Empty tomb biscuits

Create an edible reminder of the story

You will need: plain biscuits, round sandwich biscuits, chocolate buttons, icing sugar, green colouring (optional).

Click on the image to view a larger version.

- Help the children make these Easter biscuits: using the plain biscuit as a base, add a thin layer of icing sugar (you could add green colouring for grass).
- Use either half or the whole sandwich biscuit to create 'the tomb' and stick it to the base with icing sugar.
- Add a chocolate button to represent the rolled away stone.
- Talk together about when Mary arrived at the tomb – what did she see?

or

Who can you see? Focus on what we see and what we're looking for

You will need: cardboard tubes, scissors, decorating materials.

- Explain that binoculars help us focus on things and see them better. Using the cardboard tubes, the children will make and decorate a pair of (pretend) binoculars.
- When they have been made, encourage the children to look around (at church/home/outside) and see if they can see Jesus. You may need to guide discussion e.g.
 - 'I see Jesus in the new flowers growing'
 - 'I see Jesus in the way people look after each other'.

Talk together and talk to God Discuss the theme, then bring your thoughts together in prayer

- Have you ever thought something was going to happen and then it didn't happen?
- How might Jesus' friends have felt when they thought Jesus' body had gone?
- How can we look for Jesus' love and goodness in the world today?

Seeing Jesus Look for Jesus in the everyday

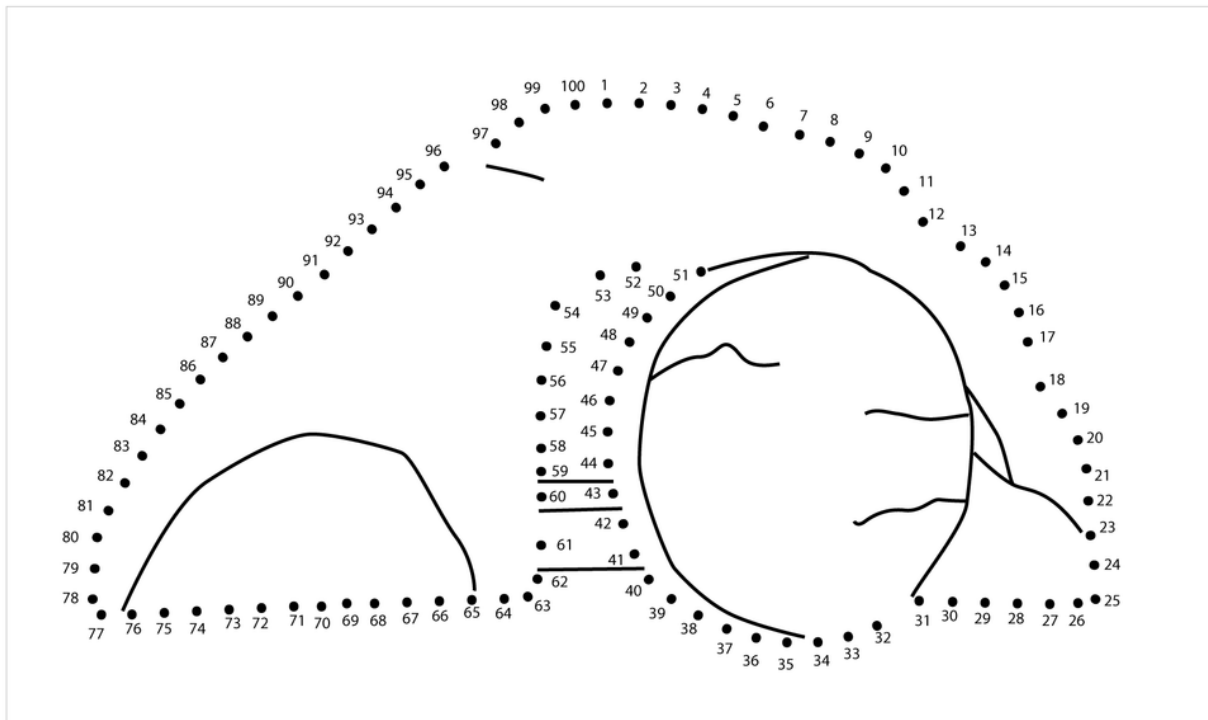
- This prayer activity encourages children to keep their eyes open, to look around them and 'notice' Jesus at work in the people and things they observe. If you have safe, outside space available, you might like to use this – or you can show items or pictures from nature.
- Give the children a simple sentence to repeat, e.g. 'I see Jesus when... *my friend helps me*', or they can simply state something good they can see.
- Finish with a short prayer thanking Jesus for being part of our lives and the things around us.

YOUNG PEOPLE Memory game

Think about the impact of memory on accounts of the resurrection

You will need: dressing-up props. [An explanation of how memory works.](#)

- Split your group into two teams. Give each team half of the props to put on. Take a photo of each team at this point, to delete after the game. Then ask both groups to swap the props round in their team, out of sight of the other team. Each team needs to 'spot the differences' on the other team. The winning team is the group who notice the most changes. To make this trickier, ask the young people to change their facial expression, also.
- Did everyone spot the changes? Discuss together how/why some people remembered things differently. How might this experiment illuminate the variations between gospel accounts of the first Easter?



EVERY SPECIAL DAY EASTER SUNDAY

1. One of the disciples who saw the empty tomb.
2. We remember this special day every _____.
3. Easter is when Jesus _____ from the dead.
4. All this happened on the _____ day of the week.
5. The tomb was covered by a big round _____.
6. _____ of Magdala was the first person to see the empty tomb.

P					E	
S					A	
		R			S	
F					T	
S					E	
		M			R	

Draw Mary of Magdala, Peter and the other disciple looking at the empty tomb.



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Easter Crossword

1. Easter Bunny

2. Easter Egg

3. Basket of Eggs

4. Daffodil

5. Easter Lamb

6. Basket of Eggs

7. Children in a field

8. Easter Egg

9. Easter Lamb

10. Easter Bunny

11. Butterfly

12. Tulip

13. Tulip

14. Easter Bunny

15. Easter Bunny