

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

EASTER EGGS

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Reflecting on the Gospel

The empty tomb (Matthew 28:1-10)

Matthew tells the story of the first Easter morning with considerable theatrical effect. There was an earthquake, the angel's appearance was like lightning and the guards shook with fear. At the heart of the narrative, however, stands the stark and simple message of the empty tomb. The angelic messenger spells out the implications: 'He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.' The empty tomb points to the Easter message of new life.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is the Easter egg, as the symbol of new life.

Extracts from the Gospel passage (Matthew 28.5-7)

But the angel said to the women,
'Do not be afraid;
I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.
He is not here;
for he has been raised, as he said.
Come, see the place where he lay.
Then go quickly and tell his disciples,
"He has been raised from the dead,
and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee;
there you will see him."
This is my message for you.'

Gospel prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are risen, you are risen indeed, alleluia!
Now, Lord Jesus Christ, send your disciples
to the four corners of the earth,
to proclaim the good news of Easter to all people;
for you are risen, you are risen indeed, alleluia!
Amen.

EASTER DAY (YEAR A) SUNDAY 12 MARCH 2020

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME

Reflecting and meditating

Reflect on Matthew's account of the resurrection of Jesus:

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

Thinking and talking

- recall how Jesus was placed in the tomb on Friday night, just before the Sabbath
- what is special about the timing, 'as the first day of the week was dawning'?
- what is the angel doing there?
- what was the angel's message to the women?
- what does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

Explore how the other two synoptic Gospels (Mark and Luke) related the Easter narrative:

- Mark 16: 1-7
- Luke 24: 1-12

Explore key ideas from the Old Testament that resonate with the Easter narrative:

- Genesis 1: 1-5
- Psalm 16: 9-11

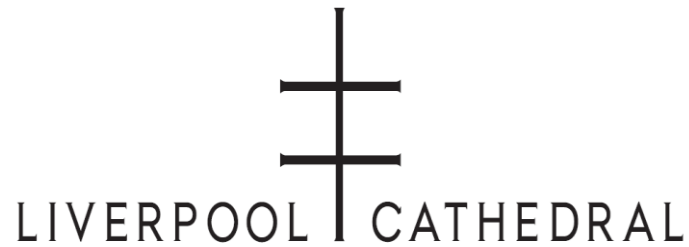
Exploring online

- explore the entry about Easter eggs in Wikipedia
- discover how Easter is celebrated in different cultures
- discover how the Eastern Orthodox Churches celebrate Easter
- discover how to make Easter eggs

Creating and making

- decorate hard-boiled or blown eggs to place around your house or in your window
- make an Easter garden, with the empty tomb – or with Easter eggs as the sign of new life
- make Easter cards celebrating the new life of Easter
- create a reflection, a poem, or a prayer on the Easter Sunday theme

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EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales and the St Christopher's College Trust.



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