



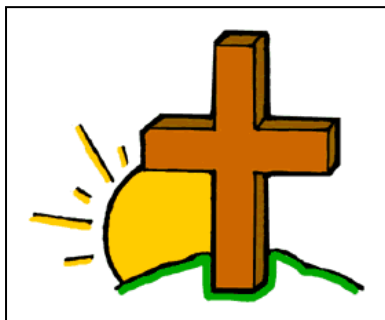
Sunday, 12th April
Easter Joy!

Welcome everyone as we meet together for our Easter Day, Sunday's Cool online.

Today, we should be having a Mega Messy Church!and Mega Easter egg hunt!
It's up to you how messy you want to get at home!!

Here, we'll start by sharing the Easter story together, we can sing some songs and we can pray together and then you'll find a variety of activities that you can do today that remind us of today's amazing story. Jesus brings us all hope and a new life in him. We need never be worried about anything as he is always with us. A truly wonderful message in these uncertain and troubling times.

So let's start by saying a prayer together:



Father God,
we come to you
because you turn doubt into hope,
tears into laughter
and fear into fearlessness.

We come to you
because on Easter Sunday
and on every other day,
we can say, 'Jesus is alive!'
Amen.



inSpire

Let's now share our wonderful Easter Day story, Easter Joy for Everyone! It's from Matthew 28.1-10:

Making faces

Beforehand, practise together the different facial expressions the people in the story might have made, such as: grief, shock, fear, joy, excitement.

Tell the Easter story, pausing at the points marked by asterisks and encourage everyone to make the appropriate expression for that part of the story!

Alternatively, you can tell the story using sounds or by acting it out.

Story: On the first Easter Day, the stone rolled away

It was early in the morning, on the first day of the week. Mary Magdalene and her friend, who was also called Mary, were on their way to Jesus' tomb. As they drew near, they saw two guards sitting there.*

Without warning, an angel came down from the sky like a bolt of lightning.* He was dressed in dazzling white clothes*, and the earth shook as he landed and rolled back the stone at the entrance to the tomb.*

The guards were terrified!* First, they shook with fear*, and then they fainted.* 'Do not be afraid,' the angel said to the two Marys.* He was sitting on the stone. 'I know who you're looking for*. You came to see Jesus, who was killed on the cross. He isn't here any more; he's been raised from the dead. Come, and see where his body lay.'*

The two Marys didn't know what to think. They were both scared of the angel*, and excited by what he said.* The angel continued speaking, 'When you have seen that Jesus is gone, go and tell the disciples the news. Jesus will go ahead of them to Galilee, and they will see him there.'*

Still frightened, but also full of joy, the women ran from the tomb to find the disciples.* They didn't get far, though, because suddenly, Jesus was there, standing in front of them.* 'Greetings!' said Jesus. The women fell to the ground, took hold of Jesus' feet and worshipped him.* Jesus spoke again. 'Do not be afraid,' he said. 'Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee.* They will see me there.'



Older children might like to read on to the end of the chapter; also the beautiful story in Luke 24 v 13 of Jesus walking with his friends on the road to Emmaus.

Talk together with children

- What was the most amazing part of the story?
- How do you think you would feel if you were one of the women who visited the tomb?
- How can we share the good news that Jesus is alive?

Talk together with young people

- What sort of emotions did the two women go through during the course of the first Easter morning?
- How do we share our own good news stories?
- How can we share the joy of Easter in a world where news is driven by speculation and personal opinion?

Think/reflect

Chocolate prayers!!

Give out foil-wrapped chocolate eggs. Ask everyone to unwrap their egg carefully and save the foil. As you read the story again, invite them to eat their egg and enjoy the taste. Then ask the young people to create a cross using their foil wrapper. Reflect together on the journey from the cross to the joy of Easter Day.

Pray

Jesus is risen!

Our world is full of happiness.

Yes! We want to sing and shout for...

JOY!

Amen.

So let's sing a song of joy together!

Use the Youtube link to sing one of our favourite Easter songs <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovUPYvJ22PY> **Sing a song, sing a joyful song.** The words are there....hope you can remember all the actions!

And of course, another favourite <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUZpjh5mvwo> **Why do you look her for the living?**
Don't forget to do the dancing at the end!! This is a great video!

Let's get creative!

Celebration cards (For more ideas, look at the church website, Inspired Ideas Online, Mon 6th April)

Sharing the message of Easter with others

You will need: sheets of A4 card, scissors, pens, coloured tissue paper, glue, envelopes.

- Fold a sheet of card in half to form a greetings card. Cut a large, cross-shaped hole in the front cover of your card.
- Write '*The joy of Easter shines through*' on the front, and a message inside their card.
- Inside the card, cover the cross 'window' carefully with tissue paper, creating a stained-glass effect. Stick and seal all the edges carefully with glue.
- Leave for a few minutes to dry. Then put your finished card in an envelope. Send your card to a friend or family member.

A simple craft activity for younger children

Make Easter bunting from card with the letters spelling 'Joy' repeated as many times as needed to create the length to decorate your space. Invite everyone to decorate the pennant shapes with pens, stickers and sparkles.

Roll the stone away

- Painting by stone rolling

Wow! The stone was rolled away from the tomb.

We can remember this by rolling stones dipped in paint to make a stone rolling picture!

- put a piece of paper on a baking tray or in an empty box
- drop some stones in pots of paint of different colours
- use a spoon to take the stones out of the paint or you will get very messy!
- put one stone at a time on the tray and roll your stone around
- take your stone out and wash it and dry it with paper towel before putting it back in the paint
- choose another colour and do the same
- If you want to roll stones on a cardboard cross, your cross will remind you that Jesus died and he rose again!
Wow!

How about making a tomb from a paper plate?



You can make the stone roll back using a split pin.

Make an Easter Garden



Make sure you make the tomb in the hillside and that you have the three crosses.

Find somewhere special to put it in your home.

Plant some seeds

Seeds are lovely to grow as we get something beautiful either to look at or to eat. The seed has to die for the new plant to grow. In this way, it is a lovely reminder of Jesus dying and rising to a new life. You can always grow pips from the fruit you eat!

The emoji Bible

Use your mobile phone to look at emojis and either draw them on paper or use them within a message on your phone to create a storyboard. Find suitable emoji images to represent each key point and create a sequence of emojis to tell the Easter story! When you've finished, share your Easter story with others.

Make your own special Faberge-style egg! (If you can get hold of eggs easily)

Why do we decorate eggs at Easter?

When we think of an egg we think of the new life of a baby chick ready to hatch out.

At Easter Jesus died but he came alive again and his friends saw him. Wow!

Jesus says we can have a wonderful new life with him if we follow him and love him.

Either blow an egg (tricky!!) or use hard boiled eggs. Decorate them in any way you like. You can draw on them, dye them, stick fabric on them.

Maybe you could enjoy eating your eggs for tea!

Whatever you decide to do.....have a lovely time!

Everyone at Sunday's Cool wishes you a very Happy Easter!

