

## YEARS 3 & 4 – EASTER: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Easter Sunday

*The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ, a faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community; handed on a fundamental by Tradition; established by the documents of the New Testament; and preached as an essential part of the Paschal mystery along with the cross:*

*Christ is risen from the dead!  
Dying, he conquered death;  
To the dead he has given life.*

[CCC 638]

The events of Good Friday cast a great sadness over the followers of Jesus. They now felt a deep emptiness with his crucifixion.

Then on the third day a group of women came to the Apostles with this amazing story. The tomb was empty and an Angel had told them that Jesus has risen from the dead and was alive.

They were the first witnesses to this most happy occasion and they cannot wait to share this news with the Apostles and the other disciples. The sadness of the Apostles was changed to joy as they came to comprehend what this all meant and that this was the beginning of a celebration that would last until the end of time, and indeed throughout all eternity.

We, too, together with the whole Church, now continue to celebrate this event on this most important day in the liturgical calendar – Easter Sunday. We are a family of Alleluia people praising God for this event that has changed the world.

### ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE IN THIS LESSON

#### **Luke 24:1-9 | *The Resurrection of Jesus***

The women leave for the tomb as early as possible, just before first light, intending to anoint Jesus with the spices they had prepared. They find the stone rolled away and they do not find the body of Jesus. Instead ‘two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them’.

Jesus has made his departure (his exodus) from this world and has accomplished in Jerusalem the mission he received from God: a mission of redemption promised by the Law (Moses) and the prophets (Elijah). The response of the women is the response of people overwhelmed by the presence of the divine. Faced with the empty tomb they are told to reflect over Jesus’ words, and to realise that they are mistaken in ‘looking for the living among the dead’.

Jesus is not in the tomb, because he has risen, as he himself had foretold [see Luke 9:22; 13:32-33; 18:31-33]. The women see for themselves that ‘he is not here’. Death for Jesus was no different from death for any of us. It meant the end of the kind of presence that his disciples knew. No longer could they see him or touch him or be touched by him. The ‘he is not here’ raises the question: Where is he? And our faith answers: he is at the heart of the mystery of life. As Jesus himself said: ‘God is God not of the dead, but of the living’ [Luke 20:38].

*The Gospel according to Saint Luke. An Introductory Commentary.  
Michael Fallon MSC. Chevalier Press 2007*

## Easter Sunday



## MAIN TEACHING AND LEARNING POINTS

- Jesus was raised to life.
- On Easter Sunday members of God's family, the Church, celebrate that Jesus is risen.

## EASTER SUNDAY

On Easter Sunday members of God's family, the Church, are filled with happiness and joy because they celebrate that Jesus has been raised to life. They remember the words that the women told the disciples, 'He is risen!' This is known as the Resurrection.

During the Mass the priest wears a white or gold chasuble (vestment) which is a symbol of the resurrection. The Liturgy contains joyous hymns and prayers that remind us that Jesus has risen from the dead and for the first time since Ash Wednesday members of God's family, the Church proclaim the words 'Alleluia, Alleluia!' which means 'praise God!'

## GOD'S WORD

Luke 24:1-9 | *The Resurrection*

**Parent:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Child responds:** *Glory to you, O Lord.* (While saying the words, trace a small cross with the thumb on the forehead, lips and heart.)

Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, carrying the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the entrance to the tomb, so they went in; but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. They stood there, puzzled about this, when suddenly two men in bright shining clothes stood by them.

Full of fear, the women bowed down to the ground, as the men said to them, 'Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here; he has been raised.

Remember what he said to you when he was in Galilee: The Son of Man must be handed over to sinful men, be crucified, and three days later rise to life.' Then the women remembered his words, returned from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven disciples and all the rest.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Child responds:** *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

## FOCUS QUESTIONS

Ask your child the following questions to help them reflect on the Scripture.

- **Why were the women puzzled when they arrived at the tomb?**
- **Why were the women filled with fear?**
- **What did the men say to the women?**
- **Why do think the women believed the men at the tomb?**
- **What did the women do when they returned from the tomb?**
- **What do you think this story reveals to us?**

## PRAYER – EASTER BLESSING

*Begin the prayer with the Sign of the Cross.*

**Parent**

Let us pray:

On Easter Sunday we celebrate that Jesus is risen.

Let us ask Jesus to bless us.

**Parent**

May the risen Jesus bless us with joy.

**Child**

Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

**Parent**

May the risen Jesus bless us with peace.

**Child**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Parent**

May the risen Jesus be with us always.

**Child**

Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

**Parent**

May we be blessed in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All**

Amen.



## Easter Story All About Me

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

I am a \_\_\_\_\_

On Easter Sunday morning I was \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I felt \_\_\_\_\_

This is a picture of me on the first Easter Sunday morning.