

Easter Sunday Prayer for Families 2021

Acknowledgment of Land, Seas and Waterways

As we rejoice on Easter Sunday, and we enter out of the darkness and begin to see the light, it is a timely reminder of the hope we share in our journey of reconciliation. We acknowledge the First Nations Peoples of these lands, seas and waterways, their elders, past, present, and emerging.

Context of Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday marks the commencement of 50 days of celebrating and coming to understand the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. It is a joy-filled and challenging time in our Liturgical calendar as we journey with the women and men, who had come to know Jesus while he was alive, as they wrestle with the concept that he was coming back only for a short time to send them apostles on their mission to tell the world of the good news of Jesus' resurrection.

Scripture

A reading from the Gospel of John 20: 1 -9

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

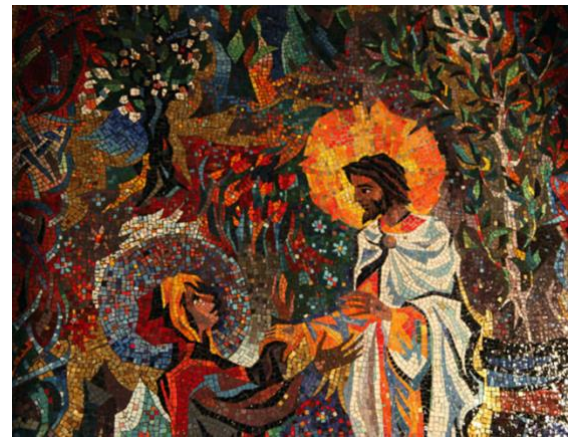


Figure 1 North moosaic 01 - Resurrection Chapel - National Cathedral – DC by [Tim Evanson](#)

Reflection by Bec Burns - Consultant Formation, Identity and Outreach Directorate, Cairns Diocese

In the images we see here we do not see the rejoicing we associate with Easter Sunday. In fact, the images depict confusion, fear, worry and perhaps even further loss. When thinking about the setting of the time and what had just happened to Jesus, it must have been terrifying for his friends to think that something even worse may have happened.

It is important for us to remember that often the reality of new beginnings can be times of uncertainty and even challenge. It often takes time for the new reality to be actualised into joy. For example when starting a new amazing job you must learn the role, connect with new workers and understand new ways of being and operating. When a child leaves primary school and enters high school, the adjustment can take time as we may grieve our growing child and yet as the days go by we come to feel the joy their growth into young adulthood can bring.



Figure 2 The Disciples Peter and John Running to the Sepulchre on the Morning of the Resurrection, c.1898 . Fine Art. Britannica ImageQuest,

Easter is not a day, it is a season lasting 50 days leading up to the Pentecost. A time perhaps when the surprise, shock, confusion had been replaced with joy and maybe even trepidation of the journey ahead. According to John the disciples believed, but they still did not really understand. I imagine that even during their confusion, their faith allowed them to believe. As time passes and Jesus' reveals more of himself to his disciples, their understanding of the resurrection and the promise fulfilled, increases.

This faith and understanding flows into a deep sense of hope.

A hope we hold today for our children and their futures.

Prayer

Loving God,

Thank you for the gift of the Easter Season.

Grant us the willingness to spend time this season in prayer with each other so we too can come to understand more of the Easter Story.

Thank you for the gift of each of us, and for the hope you have given to each member of our family.

Amen



Figure 3 Seasons of Light accessed [here](#).

Call to Action

1. Create [an Easter Candle](#) with your family explaining the symbols as set out in the instructions. Throughout the year if you need hope for any reason you can light the candle as a family and remember the hope Jesus gave the disciples all those years ago.
2. Create a hope board for your family, with all their wishes and dreams for a better world.
3. Check out the readings and reflections of Easter Sunday at [Australian Catholics](#) here.
4. The Stations of the Cross usually observed on Good Friday. Why not try observing the moments of joy in the resurrection. Check out the Stations of Light [here](#).