

See 

EASTER



Theme

Resurrection

New life

Alleluia!

Praise

Thanksgiving



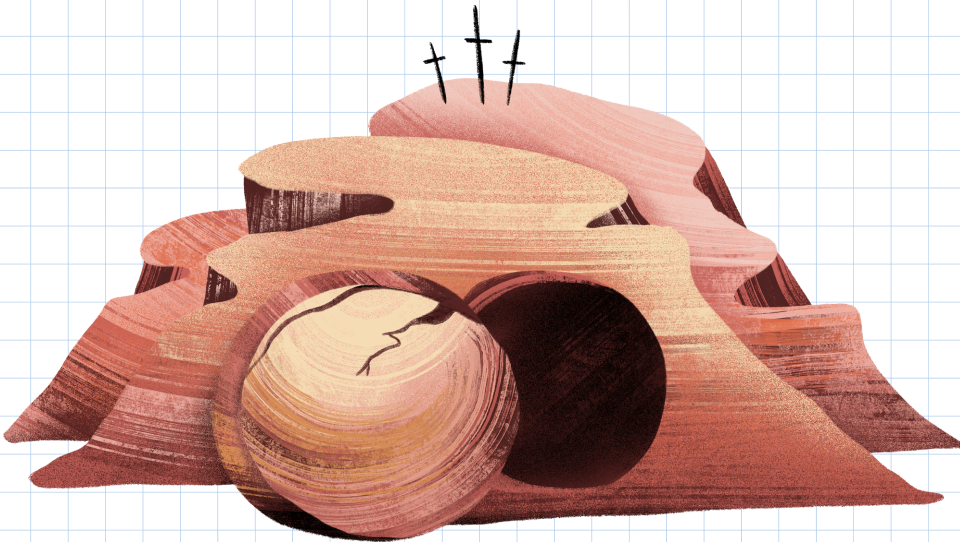
The Resurrection

Matthew 28: 1-10

Mark 16: 1-7

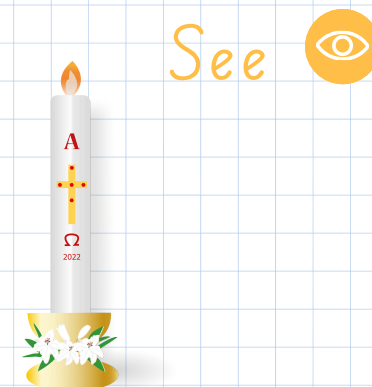
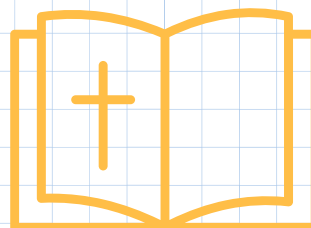
Luke 24: 1-12

John 20: 1-9





EASTER



During Eastertide the cross is a sign of salvation and hope. Early Christians used bare crosses as a symbol of Christ's victory over death.

During Eastertide, Jesus is often pictured on the cross as the risen Christ who has conquered death and has brought us new life through Him.

"O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?"

*But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Corinthians 15: 55, 57

The Resurrection of Jesus is recorded in all four Gospels. The women go to visit Jesus' tomb to find that He is not there and is risen. They tell the disciples and they are amazed. There are many prophecies about Jesus' resurrection from the Hebrew scriptures and Jesus' own words and in this moment they are fulfilled and we see these words with a new hope and a renewed and faithful confidence in God.

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead

Matthew 28: 5-7

We begin the first celebrations of Easter in darkness at the Easter Vigil before the paschal candle is lit and we are illuminated in the light of Jesus' victory and resurrection - "May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds." (Roman Missal). When Jesus died on the cross there was a 'darkness over the whole land' (Matthew 27:45; Mark 15:33; Luke 23:44) but as we celebrate the resurrection, this is overthrown by light and the paschal candle remains lit and present on the sanctuary in church all throughout the season of Eastertide.

Marked with the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet (Alpha and Omega) we are reminded that Jesus is the beginning and the end of all things (Revelation 21: 6-7) and each paschal candle is marked with the year to remind us that "All time belongs to him, [God] and all the ages." (Roman Missal). The cross and the five incense studs show the 'holy and glorious wounds of Christ' and remind us of how Jesus saved the world from sin and death.

Fire and light remind us of the life that we share in through Christ.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1: 5



At the Easter Vigil, water is blessed, new members of the Church may be baptised and we all have the opportunity to renew our baptismal promises. All throughout the Bible (722 times in fact!) water plays a part in the scriptures and there are so many examples of how it brings about change, new life, forgiveness and healing. During Eastertide we reflect on these many examples and celebrate God's presence in the elements.

[Jesus said] ...whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

John 4: 14

See



EASTER

White / Gold

Cycle of prayer during Eastertide

New Members of the Church

Human work

Vocations

The Right use of the Media

The Church

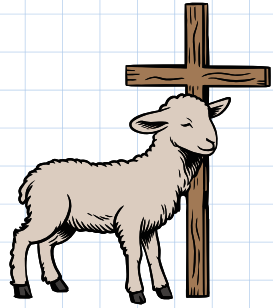
Survivors of Abuse

do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
Philippians 4:6

White is the colour for Maundy Thursday, for the Easter vigil and Easter itself, celebrating Christ's triumph over the darkness. White is the colour used at Baptism and reminds us that, through Christ's sacrifice we have been saved and washed clean of all of our sins. We also use Gold during this season to mark that it is the most important celebration in our faith and to show that it is a time of thanksgiving, joy and praise of God's glory.

Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head.

Ecclesiastes 9: 8



Lambs aren't just a symbol of Eastertide because it is Spring and a time of new life in nature. In the Hebrew scriptures, in the book of Exodus, the Jews marked their doorways with the blood of a lamb and the angel of death passed over their homes during the final plague of Egypt. When Jesus gathers with His disciples for the Last Supper they are celebrating a Passover meal. At Easter, Jesus becomes the new sacrificial lamb who gives His life for each and every one of us, to save us.

The symbol of the lamb is used particularly on Good Shepherd Sunday when we celebrate Vocations Sunday. We are reminded that sometimes we are like lost sheep and that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who will always search for those who are lost. It is a great time for those who are lost and distant from the Church to be reunited and for each of us to consider how we can follow our own calling from God and be like Jesus, the Good shepherd.

The next day he [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming towards him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"
John 1: 29

In Eastertide we are invited to pray the Via Lucis 'The Way of the Light'. These are the 14 stations of the resurrection which begin at Jesus' resurrection and include His meetings and encounters with the disciples, His Ascension and finally Pentecost. By coming together in prayer and reflecting on the scriptures after the resurrection we raise our voice in praise and are encouraged by the example of those Jesus met to have faith and to share the Good News around the world.

Many of the stations call upon us to act in mercy towards our brothers and sisters and we celebrate this particularly on **Divine Mercy Sunday**, the second Sunday of Easter. Through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy we are called to be like Jesus and to look with love and mercy on everyone that we encounter.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead
1 Peter 1: 3

Unlike Lent, flowers are encouraged during Eastertide. They show how new life can be born from something as seemingly lifeless as a bulb or seed.

White lilies are a symbol of Eastertide as their flowers are shaped and tilted to look like trumpets, rejoicing in Jesus' triumphant resurrection.

...Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Matthew 6: 28-29

Eggs remind us that Easter is a time of fertility and new life in all of creation. The shell reminds us of the tomb that Jesus broke out of when he rose from the dead. When we see colourful Easter eggs we are challenged to think about how we bring excitement and joy as we share the Good News about Jesus Christ.

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4

