

This week marks the last week of Jesus' life. It is a reminder for Christians around the world of God's sacrifice of his son and also his love for his people. In school this week we have been reflecting on the final few days of Jesus' life, and we have been preparing for the most important festival of the Christian calendar, Easter, which celebrates God raising his son Jesus from the dead as well as the destruction of the power of sin and death forever. For many, it also symbolises the opening of Heaven with the gift of eternal life to everyone.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH YOUR FAMILY THIS EASTER!

A church nearby is encouraging people to make a cross out of anything they have in the house...socks, books, eggs, pencils...and share the pictures. What can you make yours out of? Please do email in any photos of your crosses to s.alder@trinity.lewisham.sch.uk

You could make a cardboard box with a hole in the front into the tomb of Jesus, make 3 crosses to go on top and roll a stone in front of the hole until Easter Sunday. Then roll away the stone and place a torch or silver foil inside and then draw lots of flowers all over the tomb.

You could get some flowers to have around the house and remind your family of the hope that we have in Jesus.

You could read and reflect as a family on some of the Easter reflections I have attached this week

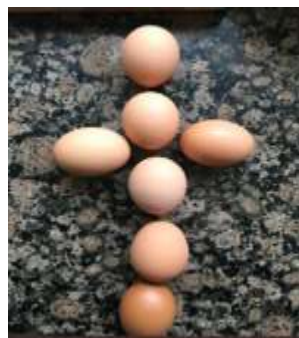
During this difficult time, find ways of surrounding yourself with Good News, with things that brighten your days and things that bring smiles and hope. Find ways of connecting yourself with God (through prayer or music or online services), connecting yourself with family or friends (phoning them, video calling, writing to them).



During this difficult time, find ways of surrounding yourself with Good News, with things that brighten your days and things that bring smiles and hope. Find ways of connecting yourself with God (through prayer or music or online services), connecting yourself with family or friends (phoning them, video calling, writing to them). And remember – God loved the world so much that he gave His only son so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. He did not come to condemn but that the world might be saved through Him (*John 3:16-17*) and Jesus came that we might have life in all its fullness (*John 10:10b*).

Please see the following pages for Easter reflections. Be safe, be happy and remember to celebrate this important time in the Church during your Easter holidays.

God bless, Miss Alder



Reflection for Maunday Thursday



Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. *John 13:3-5; 12-1*

Reflection

Washing the feet of others was the job of the very lowliest servant.

- How would you feel if someone you really respect or admire offered to do a very lowly job for you, like emptying your bins, or even washing your feet?

Watch:

Even if you have seen it before, take a moment on this holy day to watch this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=MQ3o1Mt0Y1I> of Pope Francis washing the feet of refugees.

Prayers

Today, take a moment of quiet to hold before God refugees and the homeless.

Reflection For Good Friday



Bible Reading

A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. The written notice of the charge against him read: **THE KING OF THE JEWS.**

The chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”) ...With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. *Mark 15:21-34, 37*

Watch: [Jesus is crucified](#)

Reflection

Forgive us, Father, for all the times we label others, forgetting each one is made and loved by you.
Forgive us, Jesus, for the little choices that blind us, to the pain we cause others to suffer.
Forgive us, Holy Spirit, for the silent collusion with systems that deny justice and human need, serve politics and convenience first.

Living God, forgive us our inhumanity, the denial of your image set within us; pour your grace on this, our sorrow, that we may find the courage to change and honour your love for us. Amen.

Prayer

Take a moment to pray for yourself, bringing all your worries and concerns to Jesus and leaving them at the foot of the cross.

Reflection For Easter Sunday



Bible Reading

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. *John 20:11-18*

Watch: the resurrected Jesus appears to Mary - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=aGqA-vpegus>

Reflection

The resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate good news story – death turns to life, love wins over evil! It is a message that whatever challenges and suffering we face in life, God's love is bigger and he promises to lead us forwards into new life. Sometimes it is really hard to keep believing this, but the Easter story is a huge reminder to lift out eyes to our God of hope, whose love will always win.

Pray Make this day, Lord, a step closer to heaven. This day, Lord, may I know myself loved and valued. This day, Lord, may I notice the beauty around me, in things great and small. This day, Lord, may I not miss the messages of Joy, of peace, of hope that you send me. This day, Lord, this day...make the day of my resurrection. Amen.



EASTER SERVICES

Good Shepherd Church, Handen Rd, SE12 8NP

Reflections for Holy Week

Mon 29th, Tues 30th & Weds 31st March
7 - 7.45pm in the church garden

Maundy Thursday Zoom Service

8pm Thursday 1st April

Good Friday Zoom Service

2pm Friday 2nd April

For this service you will need a cup, a fork,
a stone and a piece of paper!

Wild Church Easter Special

10.30am Saturday 3rd April in the church garden
Outdoor service for adults and children together

EASTER SUNDAY OUTDOOR CELEBRATION COMMUNION

10.30am in the church garden & on Zoom

For Zoom joining instructions please see:
www.goodpeter.org.uk/easter-services-events

Celebrate!

Sing along with London community Gospel Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=UnBZ4DNkjSg> or just watch if you prefer!



Everything's a bit different right now, so we thought it would be good to do church differently too! We'd like to invite you to...

Wild Church

Saturday 3rd April

10.30 - 11.30am

in the grounds at the Good Shepherd Church

It's a chance for adults and children to worship altogether, and to discover God through the natural world.

**PLEASE... Dress for the weather (which could be anything!)
Bring reusable cups for coffee and hot chocolate**

Wild Church is aimed at families of all shapes and sizes - especially those with children under 11, but all ages and abilities are welcome

**PLEASE NOTE: This is a Covid-secure venue
and you will be required to follow our Covid guidance**

www.goodpeter.org.uk @GoodPeterLee