



Messy Church at home

Sunday 28 March 2021

A journey through Easter week

While the pandemic is ongoing, we are still unable to meet together as a Messy Church, so for the time being, how about trying Messy Church at home?

Read each story and try the activities, using bits and pieces you might have at home. If you can't find the exact same items, what things could you use instead?

Palm Sunday

Read: John 12: 12-13 (International Children's Bible)

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

¹²The next day a great crowd in Jerusalem heard that Jesus was coming there. These were the people who had come to the Passover Feast. ¹³They took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Jesus. They shouted, "Praise God!

God bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord!
God bless the King of Israel!"

Activity

Palm of hope

You will need:

- Paper and pens
- Scissors



Draw a palm leaf shape on some green paper, or colour it in green, and cut it out. Write 'Hopes and Dreams' in the centre and then around the edge, write down what you hope for.

Think about the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem. People were lining the streets, waving palms and shouting their praise. They saw Jesus as a great message of hope.

What do you hope for? How do you think Jesus can help you with your hopes and dreams? Ask God to hold your palm leaf hopes and dreams in the palm of his hand.

Good Friday

Read: Luke 23: 44-49 (International Children's Bible)

Jesus dies on the cross

⁴⁴It was about noon, and the whole land became dark until three o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁵There was no sun! The curtain in the temple was torn into two pieces. ⁴⁶Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, I give you my life." After Jesus said this, he died.

⁴⁷The army officer there saw what happened. He praised God, saying, "I know this was a good man!"

⁴⁸Many people had gathered there to watch this thing. When they saw what happened, they returned home. They beat their chests because they were so sad.

⁴⁹Those who were close friends of Jesus were there. Some were women who had followed Jesus from Galilee. They all stood far away from the cross and watched.

Activity

The cross of love

You will need:

- Card
- Silver foil
- Scissors
- Blunt pencil



Draw the shape of a cross on the card and cut it out. Wrap the cross in foil. Use the pencil to make marks and patterns on the foil cross. Make your cross look beautiful to represent how much God loves us. He sent Jesus to give his life for us on the cross, so that our sins might be forgiven.

Life can be messy and we often get things wrong, but when we say sorry to God, he forgives us.

Easter Sunday

Read: Luke 24: 1-6 (International Children's Bible)

¹Very early on the first day of the week, the women came to the tomb where Jesus' body was laid. They brought the spices they had prepared. ²They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance of the tomb. ³They went in, but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were wondering about this, two men in shining clothes suddenly stood beside them. ⁵The women were very afraid; they bowed their heads to the ground. The men said to the

women, “Why are you looking for a living person here? This is a place for the dead.
6Jesus is not here. He has risen from death!”

Activity

Resurrection rolls

You will need:

- Croissant dough (you’ll find this in the supermarket in the chilled section with the ready-made pastry)
- Marshmallows
- Melted butter
- Ground cinnamon
- Cocktail stick, skewer or fork

Make sure you wash your hands before you start. Preheat the oven to the cooking temperature given on the croissant dough pack. Then, open your dough and divide it up into triangles (these will be marked out for you). Get your melted butter and cinnamon ready in two small bowls.

Put a marshmallow on the end of a stick, skewer or fork and dip it into the melted butter, thoroughly coating it. Then stick it into the cinnamon and make sure it gets a good coating of that too. Put your coated marshmallow at the end of the croissant dough and roll it up according to the instructions on the pack to make a crescent shaped croissant.

Bake your resurrection rolls on a baking sheet in the oven for the length of time given on the pack (probably about 10-15 minutes). When your rolls are baked, remove them from the oven and they’re ready to eat.

Before you eat though, take a moment to reflect. Break open your resurrection roll down the middle. What do you see? The marshmallow you placed in the centre will have disappeared.

As you eat, consider the story of Easter morning. The women arrived at Jesus’ tomb and found it empty, just like the centre of your ‘empty tomb roll’. Not even death could hold Jesus back. He was alive!

How do you think the disciples would have felt



discovering that Jesus had risen from the dead? How do you think they might have celebrated the fact that Jesus was alive? Perhaps not with a 'resurrection roll', but maybe with a meal together.

We can all celebrate that Jesus is alive. How will you celebrate Jesus being alive today?

Easter Scavenger Hunt

If you have some spare time over the Easter holidays, you might like to try the Easter scavenger hunt at the end of this document.

Reflect

[Watch this short video of Poppet the puppet](#) talking about Easter and the meaning of the cross.

Look around you. How many crosses can you see? As Poppet says, the cross reminds us how much Jesus loves us. The bible tells us in John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

Jesus died on the cross, but death was not the end. He rose again, he is alive and he never stops loving us.

Sing

Easter is the perfect time to keep singing Jesus' love is very wonderful! The words remind us how much Jesus loves us: his love for us is so high, you can't get over it, so low you can't get under it and so wide you can't get round it. Oh! Wonderful love!

Pray

Before you eat any Easter eggs this Easter, use an egg to help you pray:

1. As you unwrap your Easter egg, thank God for all the good things in your life.
2. As you open your egg, look the empty, hollow shell. Be thankful that Jesus rose from the grave and that the tomb was found empty on Easter Sunday.
3. As you break up your chocolate shell, pray for people and situations that may feel broken and ask God to be with those people and in those situations.
4. As you eat your chocolate, thank God for the people you love and those who bring sweetness to your life.

You might also like to say The Lord's Prayer. And perhaps you'd like to finish with Messy Grace - can you remember the actions we do when we say it? Here's a reminder...

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out your hands in front of you)

And the love of God (Put your hands on your heart)
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)
Be with us all now and for ever. Amen (Raise hands together on the word 'Amen'
and shout loudly!)

Easter scavenger hunt

All the items in this scavenger hunt are linked to the Easter story. How many can you find?



People waved palm leaves as Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.
Find a large leaf.



Jesus took some bread and said, 'This is to remind you of my body broken for you.'
Find something to eat.



Jesus took some wine and said, 'This is to remind you of my blood shed for you.' Find something to drink.



Jesus went into the garden to pray to God.
Find something from the garden or another outside space.



Pilate washed his hands and gave Jesus to be crucified.
Find something that cleans you.



Jesus was put on a wooden cross.
Find something wooden.



Jesus died and his body was placed in a tomb with a stone rolled over the entrance.
Find a stone.



Women came to put spices on Jesus' body.
Find something that smells nice.



Jesus is alive! He is risen!
Find something that makes you happy.