

Your local Catholic parish is having the following celebrations this Easter:

Prayer of Commitment to Jesus Christ

*Jesus,
I am seeking more meaning in my life.
I seek happiness and peace for myself and my loved ones.
Up until now You have not played a big part in my life.
But little by little, as I look back over my life,
I can see You have been calling me to Yourself.
Through all the events and people that have come into my life
I can see Your presence, Your guiding hand through it all.
Help me not to be afraid as I resolve to learn more about You
and Your Church and make You more a part of my life.
Amen.*

Contacting the Catholic Enquiry Centre

If you or someone close to you is interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith, please contact

Catholic Enquiry Centre
on 1300 4 FAITH (1300 432 484)
or email info@catholicenquiry.com
or visit www.catholicenquiry.com

Other places you might like to look for information:

www.catholic.org.au
www.acbc.catholic.org.au
www.catholicaustralia.com.au
www.vatican.va



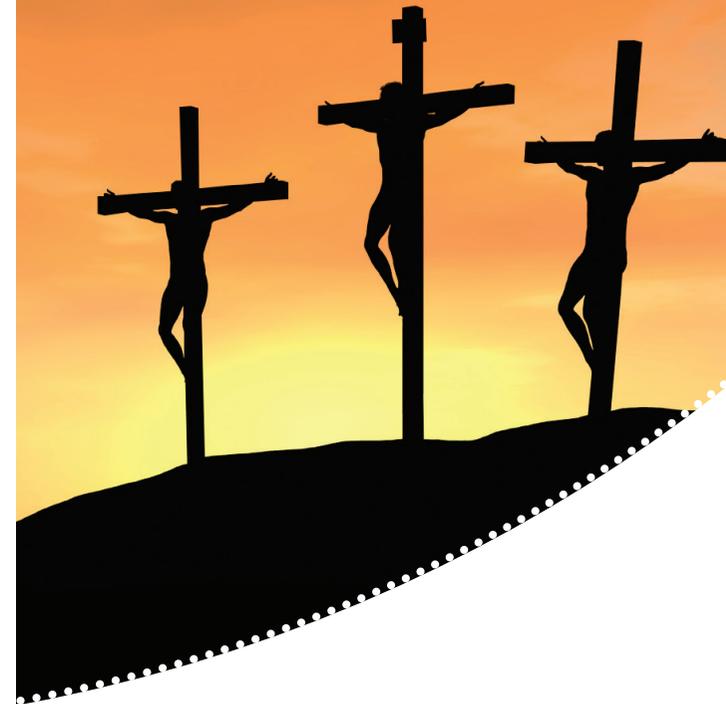
Catholic Enquiry Centre

Reaching out in faith
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

1300 4 FAITH (1300 432 484) email: info@catholicenquiry.com

Easter

Love is stronger than death



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About Easter

For some Easter is a welcome holiday, with an opportunity to enjoy Hot Cross Buns on Good Friday and chocolate eggs, symbols of new life, on Easter Sunday.

These are good things. We all enjoy a break from work or study, and special food for special occasions is always welcome. Behind these customs, however, are the extraordinary events that define what we mean by love.

At Easter, we remember and call to mind three things:



- The Last Supper in which Jesus Christ gave his followers Holy Communion on Holy Thursday;
- The death of Jesus on the cross on Good Friday;
- Jesus risen from the dead to new life, on Easter Sunday.

What happened at Easter?

On Friday afternoon, Jesus of Nazareth was crucified, died, and was buried. This was an historical event.

On Sunday morning, the tomb where they had lain him was found to be empty. This is an historical event.

That same day, the risen Jesus appeared to the apostles and to others. These, too, are historical events.

What does Easter mean to you?

The Resurrection of Jesus to new life breaks through the bounds of history. Jesus, risen to new life, will not die again. In the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead, eternity breaks into history and humanity is given a preview of life everlasting.



The message of Jesus Christ is that love is stronger than death. The message Jesus proclaimed in word and in action, was that love overcomes evil. For some, this message was so threatening that they felt they had to kill Jesus.

In the crucifixion of Jesus, evil appears to have overcome love, as Jesus, the embodiment of love, dies with criminals on a cross.

Yet, through the extraordinary event of Jesus raised from the dead, his mission and message are vindicated. Self-sacrificing love is shown to be stronger than death. Love has conquered evil, and eternity breaks into history in a unique way.

At each Mass, we recall these extraordinary events in a special way. When we gather together to re enact the Last Supper, eternity breaks through into history, in the pattern of the Resurrection of Jesus. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, in the words and actions of the priest, the body and blood of the risen Jesus become really present under the appearance of bread and wine. They become our spiritual food.

One story, three episodes

Easter is a little like a television mini-series in which the story develops over three episodes. Like a play that has three acts, Easter begins on Holy Thursday night with the commemoration of the Last Supper, continues through the memorial of the death of Jesus on Good Friday and concludes with the celebration of Jesus risen from the dead on Easter Sunday.

It is good to have a break from work or study and it is good to eat special foods on occasion. It is also good to remember why we get a holiday and why the chocolate is shaped like an egg.

At Easter, we remember how God's life continues to break into our world with the offer of peace and joy beyond our imagination.

The doors of the Church are open. You are most welcome to enter.

Are you longing for hope and meaning in your life?

Easter challenges us to find in Jesus Christ a source of meaning that endures and a hope in which we can believe.

