

Reading

We are reading an Easter story, a scene from Jesus' resurrection in John 20:1-18,

If you have trouble accessing the recording, you can find the text [here](#).

Share Your Experience

While we are a dispersed community for now, it is great to have an online place to share our experiences doing Messy Church at home—comments, photos, videos, feedback or requests are all welcome.

The link to our private Facebook group is [here](#).

If you know anyone who might like to join, and receive resources, they'd be welcome, too.

Activities

1. Empty tomb treasure hunt

Instructions: Collect together the items on the list below and nominate a member of the family to hide these items around your home. The other members of the family will be hunting for them.

You will need: a stone, running shoes, a rolled up bandage (or band-aids), a cloth, tissues (tissue box), white clothes (or angel ornaments, if you have them), a gardening tool, a sheet of paper with *Rabbouni* or *Teacher* written on it

Empty tomb treasure hunt

One of the great things about reading the stories about Jesus is that we hear about ordinary people who were just like us, who loved him and were doing their best to follow him. Below are a list of ordinary things that relate to this moment in Jesus' story and a reminder God is with us in every ordinary and extraordinary moment. Can you find them all?

Can you find?	
stone	stone in front of the tomb
running shoes	Peter and John running to the tomb
bandages or band-aids	the discarded linen wrapping
cloth	the cloth that was on Jesus' head
tissues	Mary's tears
white clothes	angels at the tomb
a gardening tool	Mary mistakenly thinks Jesus is a gardener
"Rabbouni"	Mary recognises Jesus

Reflect on the ordinary things that are in your house that remind you God is present.

2. Rabbouni!

You will need: Paper, pens and/or pencils, a camera phone/tablet

Rabbouni!

When Mary sees Jesus, she seems very shocked. And she calls him by the name Rabbouni, which means teacher. At a time when it was becoming clearer and clearer that Jesus was not just any teacher, Mary shows us that Jesus role as a teacher was a very important part of who he was to her.

Even though we can not go to classes or see our teachers at the moment, you can write a letter or create a drawing to express to one of the teachers' in your life how important they are to you. It could be a music teacher, a scout leader, or one of your class room teachers.

Take a photo of your letter or drawing and email it to your teacher or upload it for them to view. Keep the original—when you see them again you can give it to them.

Reflect on Jesus as a teacher, what you have learned from Jesus?

3. Race to the tomb

You will need: plastic cups or plastic bowls, masking tape or other material to mark out start and finish lines, a timer

Instructions: mark out a short area in your home or backyard to have a 'race' — it does not have to be in a straight line. Ten metres would be great. If it's only wide enough for one person, then race one-by-one and time one another

Race to the tomb

Do you think it's funny that John wants us to know that he outran Peter on their way to the tomb? When something astounding happens, we often want to know as much as possible as quickly as possible. Even though they raced, Peter and John didn't learn anything more than Mary had told them. In fact, it is only Mary (again!) who is able to tell them more after Jesus appears to her.

We are going to have a race. At the starting line, put the plastic cup or bowl on your head. Your goal is to get to the finish line in the fastest time BUT if the cup/bowl falls from your head, you have to return to start line and keep going.

Reflect on how you respond when there is something you want urgently to know. How does God help us when we can not know more than what is in front of us?

4. Spices and oil

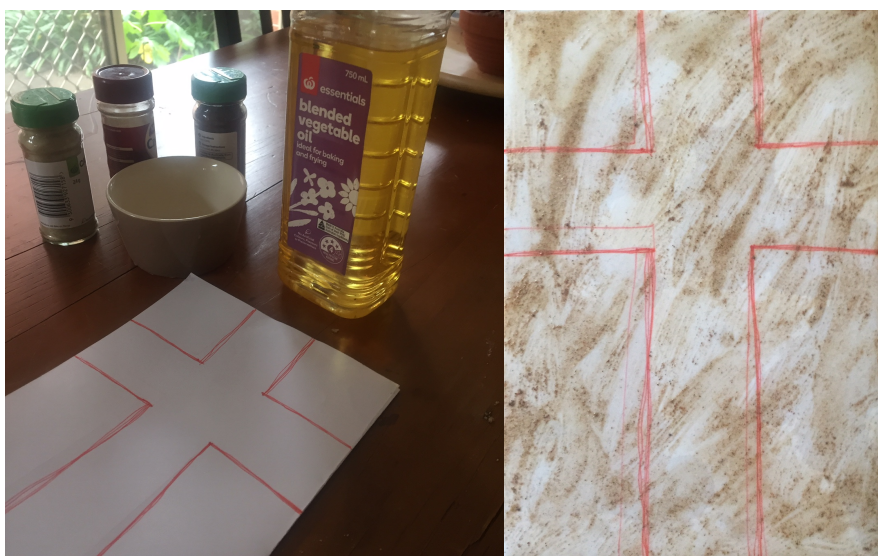
You will need: paper, pens, a selection of a few dried herbs or spices, oil, a small dish

Spices and oil

In another version of the story we read (in Luke 24), Mary was going to the tomb with spices and oil to anoint the body of Jesus. This was to cover the smell of a decomposing body and an act of devotion and love for the person who had died. We know that the spices and oil weren't needed, Jesus wasn't in the tomb!

On your piece of paper draw a cross. Into your dish pour a little bit of oil. Choose the spices you want to use and tip some of them into the oil. Mix the oil and spice together. Using your finger spread your oil spice mix over your cross.

As you do this, think about what it means to show love to those who are not physically with you, such as friends and family you can't see at the moment, people who have died, and Jesus.



5. "I thought he was the gardener!"

You will need: A sheet of paper, a pen, access to a camera, and/or a pair of scissors

"I thought he was a gardener!"

When Mary saw Jesus, she thought he was a gardener. In fact, during his life, Jesus often spoke about plants, wheat stalks, vines, mustard seeds, fig tree, planting and harvesting. He spoke a bit like a gardener!

Taking care of plants and living things requires careful attention. Can you walk around your house and garden and note all of the living things you see - plants and animals. You could take photos of some of them, or take cuttings of the plants to put into water, or even collect seeds or shoots from your favourite fruits and vegetables.

Reflect on all these signs of new and growing life; what is your prayer? Write it down and place it with your collection of living things.

6. Stones

You will need: a collection of stones or rocks of any shape and size

Stone sign

The stone rolled away from the tomb was the first sign to Mary and the other disciples that something unusual was going on at the site of Jesus' burial. In lots of places across the world, piles of stones (often called a cairn) are used to mark grave sites, important landmarks, or as trail markers. They show you that this is a place of significance.



Find a place in your home or garden to build a cairn. You can build it in any shape you like and you can decide what important thing it marks. It could be the life and death of Jesus, it could be a prayer for the future, or an important experience in your life that reminds you of God's love.

7. BONUS ACTIVITY - Easter Eggs

This may include items that not everyone has at home.

You will need: chocolate easter egg, chocolate buttons for melting, sprinkles/ coconut/dried fruit/crushed nuts/your choice of decorations, microwave, pastry brush

Instructions: Melt the chocolate in the microwave or over the stove. If using the stove, it will need to be on a low heat, or using a double boiler. If using the microwave, it should be done in short bursts, stirring in between. It's done when it is just melted. You don't want it to get too hot!

Easter Eggs

We have eggs on easter Sunday because eggs are a symbol of life—the new creation of the resurrected Christ, and our new life in him. In another part of the Bible it says that our lives are hidden in Christ. What a mysterious thing to consider.

Making easter eggs is tricky, but you can make your store bought eggs unique by decorating them. Remove the wrapper from your egg. Using the pastry brush, paste on chocolate in the place you would like to add your decorations.

Perhaps you can decorate your egg/s to reflect what new creation or new life means to you.