

Holy Week and Easter Activities

As part of our resources to support learning and growing together as a Christian family, we would like to offer you this activity booklet which includes: reading the Bible, prayer ideas and more creative activities. We hope you can spend some time together, observing Holy Week and celebrating Easter. All the details of Easter services can be found on the Parish website: waltonparish.org.uk. We hope you have fun celebrating Easter together as a family.



Maybe you could start a table or tray of items to help you think about the events of Holy Week? Each day there is an idea for something to add from the activity suggested, but feel free to add as much or as little as you like.

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is the day when we remember Jesus riding into Jerusalem. If you collected a palm cross at church on Palm Sunday, place it on your table / tray.

Read the story in Mark's gospel during the week:

Sunday Mark 11: 1-11

Celebrate and discuss Palm Sunday with this simple craft of handmade palm leaves. All it takes is green paper (or white paper coloured in!), tape, a stick and a little hand tracing fun. The palm



branches were a symbol of victory and celebration. Wave your creation in the air or maybe act out the story together before adding it to your table / tray. Some questions to help your discussion: Would you have joined in with the crowd? How would you have felt if you had been there with Jesus? How do we recognise Jesus in the world today?

Dear Jesus, help us to journey with you and draw closer to you this Holy Week. Amen.



Monday

Read the story in Mark's gospel during the week:

Monday Mark 11: 15-19

When Jesus came to the temple during the yearly Passover celebration, he was outraged that temple leaders were allowing merchants to do their business in the parts of the temple that were

supposed to be used for special worship of God. They were more worried about making money from selling animals to sacrifice than about worshipping God. Jesus loved his Father and he knew that what was being done was wrong. He turned over the tables and scattered the coins. Jesus stood up for what was right.

How many different coins can you find to rub? Add your rubbings or the coins to your table / tray.



The money changers were distracting people from worshipping God. As a family, talk about what distracts you from going to church, reading your Bible or praying. What could you do to help each other not to be distracted?

Dear Jesus, thank you for the opportunities we have to worship you. We are sorry for when we have been distracted. Please help us to put you first in our lives. Amen.

Tuesday

The woman in today's story showed her great love for Jesus. After you have read the story, talk together about the ways we can show our love to Jesus. How can we show Jesus' love to other people? Do we know how much Jesus loves us?

Read the story in Mark's gospel during the week:

Tuesday Mark 14: 1-11

Draw some heart shapes, cut them out and add them to your table / tray to show God's love for us and our love for him.



Dear Jesus, thank you for your great love for us. Help us to show our love for you each day. Amen.



Wednesday

There is a lot of story for tomorrow, so we've started it today!

Jesus went into the garden to pray. Why not go together into the garden during today to pray for each other and for the world? Pick some flowers, leaves, grass or stones to add to your table / tray to represent the garden. Maybe you could make a small garden in a bowl?

Dear Jesus, help us to pray each day for the world, those in need and for people to know you more and more. Amen.

Read the story in Mark's gospel during the week:

Wednesday Mark 14: 12-50

Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday is the day before Good Friday. On this day, we remember the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples. 'Maundy' comes from a Latin word which means *a command*, and it refers to Jesus' *command* that he gave at the Last Supper, that we must love one another as he loves us.

Read the story in Mark's gospel during the week:

Thursday Mark 14: 53-72

Include some *bread and red juice (or grapes)* as part of your main meal on Maundy Thursday. Talk about the Last Supper, the last meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. Why is it such a special meal? How can we include Jesus in our special occasions?



Maybe you could take turns to wash each other's feet? How many other ways can you think to serve each other in your family? How might you be able to serve people in your community or at church?

Add a towel and some bread / grapes to your table / tray.

Dear Jesus, as we eat bread and drink juice we remember you. Thank you for meeting with us. Help us to serve each other. Amen.

Good Friday

Come to St John's Church at 10.30 am for the all-age service and enjoy hot cross buns afterwards. Together we will remember the time when Jesus suffered on the cross. It is a time to pray, and to remember that Jesus loved us so much he was willing to die for us. Make a cross (from twigs, nails or paper) and add it with a candle to your table / tray.

Read the story in Mark's gospel during the week:

Friday Mark 15: 1-39

Fizzy forgiveness prayers



You will need a jug / bowl of water and some effervescent vitamin tablets (break these into bits). Encourage the children to think of something they have done that they need forgiveness for. Jesus died on the cross so we can be forgiven and have a friendship with God. Hold the bit of tablet and think of whatever you did that was wrong. As you drop it into the water say sorry to God and ask for forgiveness. As the

tablet fizzes, know that Jesus takes away the wrong things and makes everything clean and new once more as if nothing was ever wrong. As you look at the liquid, ask God to help you to live as Jesus shows us.

Holy Saturday

New beginnings are a beautiful part of Spring and a wonderful reminder of God's grace. As we wait between Good Friday and the celebration of Easter Day, here is an activity to explain Jesus' death, burial



and resurrection in a simple way. You will need a packet of jelly beans! Pick out the colours and read the poem. Enjoy eating

the jelly beans! Maybe you could add a bowl of jelly beans to your table / tray?

Talk together about how the disciples would have been feeling. They did not know about what was to happen on Easter Day. How do we feel when we are waiting? Jesus was

The Jelly Bean Poem

Red
is for the blood He gave
Green
is for the grass He made
Yellow
is for the sun so bright
Orange
is for the edge of night
Black
is for the many sins made
White
is for the grace He gave
Purple
is for the hour of sorrow
Pink
is for the new tomorrow

A bag full of jelly beans,
colorful and sweet,
is a prayer, a promise,
is an Easter treat

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Read the story in Mark's gospel during the week:

Saturday Mark 15: 40-47

about to change the disciples' life completely. How would you like Jesus to change your life?

Dear Jesus, thank you for the freedom that comes from knowing you. Amen.

Easter Sunday

Come to church to celebrate the risen Jesus. After the 9.15 am service at St Mary's and the 10.30 am at St John's, there will be an Easter egg hunt!

Read the story in Mark's gospel during the week:

Sunday Mark 16:1-20

Why not pop into St Mary's Church this week to see the Easter garden? You can see the one in St John's on a Sunday morning.



Make an edible tomb.

You will need:

rich tea biscuits

jam and cream biscuits

icing sprinkles or similar

butter cream

green colouring

mini eggs

Mix some green colouring into the butter cream.

Then cover a rich tea biscuit in green butter cream (for grass). Next, place a jam and cream biscuit (with one side cut off) at the back of the grass for the tomb and a mini egg in front of the tomb for the stone. Finally, decorate the grass with sprinkles (for flowers).

Make a paper cross, and add decorations such as paper flowers and leaves until it is completely covered and filled with life. Add this to your table / tray.

Dear Jesus, thank you for the gift of new life this Easter. Amen.



Easter egg toss game

To play this game you will need some plastic cups and something small e.g. balls. Can you throw into the cups that mark the cross? and miss the ones around them. For older children: how about putting letters in the cups and trying to spell out different words? Who can get their ball into the cups in the right order the quickest? This could be a competition between parent and child.

Egg and spoon race

What about meeting up with some friends and having an egg and spoon race? You need some wooden spoons, plastic eggs or hard boiled eggs? Will it be a straight race or an obstacle race?



Make Easter nests

Ingredients: 225g/8oz plain chocolate, broken into pieces

2 tbsp golden syrup

50g/2oz butter

75g/3oz cornflakes

36 mini chocolate eggs



Method:

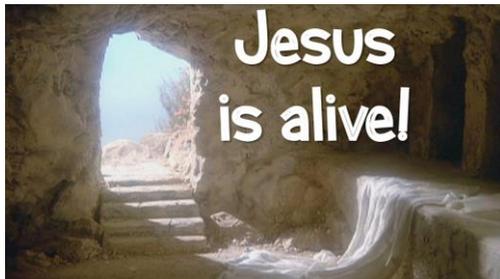
Line a 12-hole fairy cake tin with paper cases.

Melt the chocolate, golden

syrup and butter in a bowl set over a pan of gently simmering water, (do not let the base of the bowl touch the water). Stir the mixture until smooth.

Remove the bowl from the heat and gently stir in the cornflakes until all of the cereal is coated in the chocolate.

Divide the mixture between the paper cases and press 3 chocolate eggs into the centre of each nest. Chill in the fridge for 1 hour, or until completely set.



How many things can you find in your garden that are alive? What about in the park? Or down by the river?

Collect some flowers to put on your table.

Could you make a stained glass cross to put in your window?

You will need some card and to cut out around the cross and then cut out the middle. Glue strips of tissue paper across the middle in lots of bright colours. The cross on which Jesus died has been transformed into the cross which brings us life

It would be great if you could take a photo of your table / tray and post it on the Parish Facebook page.



If you would like more support in living and growing as a Christian family, please do talk to Mandy at church, on 01932 246609 or email mandy@waltonparish.org.uk