

# Family Easter at Home

At the moment we aren't able to meet as a Church community, but we are able to meet as Church family in our own homes. We've created some ideas for you to be able to celebrate Holy Week in your own homes. These are great for families with children from Year 6 and upwards, although they can be adapted to suit any age. Why not use the Easter timeline below to create your own activities. We've given you a few ideas on how you can tell the story each day in your own home.

Palm Sunday	This is the day that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Matthew 21:1-11
Monday	Jesus visits the temple and is so angry to see people not using it to worship God Matthew 21:12-17
Tuesday	Jesus & the disciples visit the Mount of Olives & He teaches about the importance of faith Matthew 21:18-22
Wednesday	The Bible doesn't say what Jesus did today. We think maybe He rested Genesis 2:2-3
Thursday	This is called Maundy Thursday where we remember the Passover and the Last Supper Matthew 26:17-30, John 13:1-20, Matthew 26:36-46 (Garden of Gethsemane)
Friday	The trial, crucifixion, death and burial of Jesus Matthew 26:47-56-75, Matthew 27:1-56
Saturday	Jesus' body lays in the tomb Matthew 27:57-65
Easter Sunday	Resurrection of Jesus Matthew 28

## STONE PAINTING

If you have a garden, have a hunt for some rocks. If you don't have a garden try to look for some when you are on your daily walk in the neighbourhood. Give them a bit of a clean and let them dry. Gather some paints or Sharpies, anything that you can make marks on stones with. Try to paint or draw some pictures from the Easter story. When they are dry you might like to drop them off around the neighbourhood when you are walking through the streets. You could always write a verse of hope on the bottom of the rock, or the name of your church. Make sure you leave them in places where people will see them.



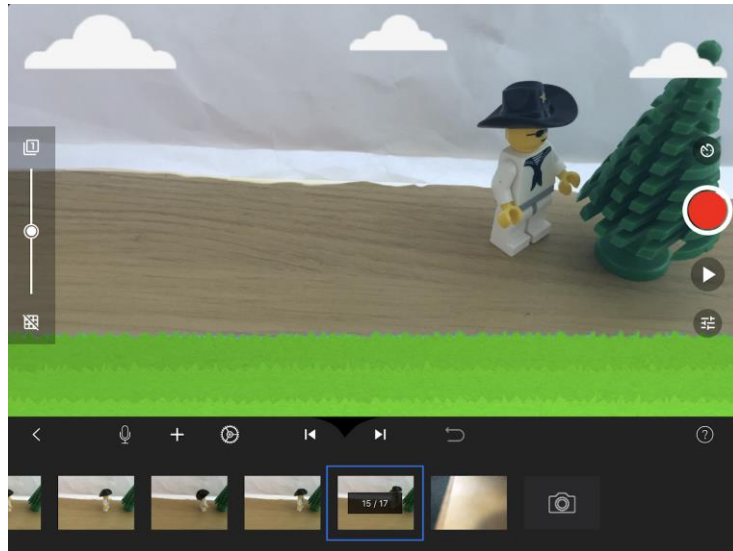
## LEGO MODEL CHALLENGE

Why not try to build a Lego model which describes each day of Holy Week. You could challenge each other in your family and show them to the rest of your extended family on Zoom/Skype/What's App and let them judge who wins.



## STOP MOTION

We love making stop motion videos at home. There are several free platforms out there for both android and apple as well as desktop websites. You don't have to just use Lego to make stop motion. You could use playdough, household objects, drawings, dolls etc. The only limits are your imagination. You could make each day in the Holy week and then put them all together at the end and share it to your friends and family. Why not send it to your vicar, youth leader or children's leader so they can share it to the Church family.



## iMOVIES

The chances are if you have an Apple iPad or iPhone you will have already downloaded the iMovies app. This is a good opportunity to channel your inner actor. Don't worry if you have family members who don't want to act, there are not just acting roles. You will need people to write a script, film it, edit it and even do special effects. Enjoy recreating each of the Holy Week days. Why not share your finished movie with your family on Zoom (you can share your screen with them and still see their reaction to your amazing movie).



## KAHOOT

Why not make your own Kahoot quiz. Kahoot is a free app that you can download to your phone via your app store. You can make it and mirror it on a TV and everyone can join in via their own mobile phone. It is a fun way to recapture the Easter story as well as start a little family competition



## PRAYER STATION

See you can print off a map of the area that you live in. You might like to draw a picture instead or take photographs of various landmarks whilst you are out walking. After Jesus rode into Jerusalem He visited the temple. Jesus got mad as He saw lots of people not using it for what it was supposed to be used for – praying and worshipping God. So He tipped the tables over and drove people out of the temple. Talk about the following:

What makes you mad about the place that you live in?

Your school?

What's broken and needs God to heal it?

Write it down on the sheet and then place a plaster over it (if you have one) as you pray for God to heal that.



## EASTER EGG HUNT with a difference

At home we have plastic eggs that open up. If you have these they would be ideal for this game. If not, don't worry. You can always draw twelve eggs on thick paper and hide those instead. Write a number from 1-12 on each egg (unless you are using paper eggs). Inside each egg, hide the following objects:

1. A tiny plastic donkey (this could be a picture or a Lego piece)  
Jesus rode to Jerusalem on a donkey (Matthew 21:1-11)
2. A tiny perfume bottle or piece of cotton soaked in perfume  
Mary poured perfume on Jesus' feet (John 12:2-8)
3. A tiny loaf of bread, dinner plate or a fork  
The Last Supper (Matthew 26:17-19)
4. 3 pieces of silver (chocolate coins, pretend money, pieces of foil cut out to look like coins)  
Judas betrays Jesus (Matthew 27:3)
5. A cross (made from toothpicks, piece of jewellery)  
Jesus carried the cross to site of the crucifixion (John 19:17)
6. A crown of thorns (I use rose thorns held between sellotape so as not to hurt anyone)  
Jesus crowned king of the Jews (John 19:2-4 and Mark 15:17)
7. Dice  
Soldiers divide up Jesus' clothes (John 19:23)
8. Nail  
Jesus was nailed to the cross (John 19:18, 37 and John 20:25-29)
9. Sponge  
They give Jesus a sponge soaked in vinegar to drink (John 19:28-30)
10. Spices (whole cloves are perfect, don't go for the chilli spice though)  
Jesus' body is prepared for burial (John 19:40)
11. A stone  
They covered Jesus' tomb with a great stone (Matthew 27:59-60)
12. EMPTY  
The tomb was empty! He has risen (Matthew 28:6)

If you are using paper eggs, you could either write a number on the back of each egg or write the objects that are needed. You could still gather the physical objects for each egg and either place them on a tray or in individual bowls. Hide the eggs. The hunt begins. When all twelve eggs have found bring them together. Open each one and use the objects and Bible verses to tell the story of Holy Week.



## SCIENCE

Science is a great way to explore our faith. We have four of our favourite experiments taken from the *Messy Church Does Science* book.

### 1. Floating & sinking eggs

Equipment: Glasses of water; eggs; LOTS of salt

Method: Place an egg in a glass of water.

Observe what happens to it.

Now add five tablespoons of salt to the water and stir until the salt fully dissolves

Place the egg into the glass. What happens now?

Conclusion: This experiment looks at density. Salt water is denser than fresh water. Did you know that Dead Sea is so salty that you can do nothing but float in it?

Talk about: The Bible talks about the strength of God and how we can be upheld by it. How can we use God's strength to hold us up in these times? How can we strengthen others in our community who might be scared and worried at this time? How was Jesus held by God's strength during His last week on earth?

### 2. Tornado in a bottle

Equipment: Water; plastic bottle; washing-up-liquid; glitter (optional)

Method: This experiment can be tricky, so keep trying to get it right.

Fill a plastic bottle  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way with cold water.

Add a couple drops of washing-up-liquid and glitter (if using).

Put the lid on a tip it upside down.

Holding it by the lid, turn it using big circular motions. Observe what happens. You should see a small tornado in the middle.

Conclusion: This is called centrifugal force. Can you research what that means? It's the same reaction that happens when you are on a roundabout – you get pushed to the side.

Talk about: What do we do when things unsettle us? The Bible talks a lot of God's peace. Do you think that Jesus experienced God's peace when He was arrested? How can we experience God's peace during difficult times of our life?

### 3. Making music

Equipment: Jars (at least 3 or 4 of the same or similar size); water; spoons; food colouring

Method: Fill each jar/cup with a different amount of water and add a bit of food colouring to each one.

Gently tap each one with a metal or wooden spoon.

Listen to the different sounds.

Can you make a song?

Conclusion: Why do they make different sounds?

The sounds are made by sound waves which are caused by the glass vibrating as you hit it.

The frequency of sounds depends on how fast the glass is vibrating. The more water that is in a jar, the slower the vibration, the lower the pitch.

Talk about: The Bible says, 'Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!' (Psalm 150:6).

Worship is so important. Even though this week was really hard for Jesus, it is also Good News for us. It means that we can have a relationship with God and that's something worth making music for.

#### 4. Balloon rocket

Equipment: Balloons; string; straw; sellotape

Method: Thread the straw through a long piece of string.  
Tie one end of the string to a chair.  
Place another chair a few metres from the first one in a straight line.  
Make another track in the same way.  
Now you should have two tracks.  
Attach a balloon to the straw using a piece of sellotape. The best way to do this is to semi inflate it. Make sure that the open end faces the start line.  
Fully inflate the balloon and on the count of three let the balloon go down the track.

As you've got two tracks you can race each other. Did you win?

Conclusion: This works by converting potential (stored) energy into kinetic (moving) energy as the air is pushed out of the balloon. This force is called thrust. It causes the straw to travel along the string due to Newton's third law of motion. If you aren't sure what that is, you can look it up.

Talk about: In this activity, the balloon needs to be constantly blown up with air in order to keep it moving. Jesus filled with 'energy' by praying. On Maundy Thursday He spent the whole night praying to God for the trial that lay ahead for Him. What ways can we 'fill up' to help us in the days ahead?



## TABLE CARDS

One of our young people has made this resource for you to use. You can use these after your family meal to start a discussion about different parts of the Easter story. Feel free to print and cut them out and use them as you want.

### Question 1.

What is your favourite part of the Easter story and why?

### Question 2.

When Jesus came to Jerusalem why were palm leaves being waved at him?

### Question 3.

What do you think of Jesus?

### Question 4.

How did Jesus end up in  
Jerusalem?

### Question 5.

How did the disciples discover  
that Jesus was alive?

### Question 6.

Where did all of this take  
place?

### **Question 7.**

Where was Jesus the night he was arrested?

### **Question 8.**

Who betrayed Jesus?

### **Question 9.**

Who denied Jesus?

### **Question 10.**

If you there during this period of time how would you record the event.

e.g

Instagram, Snapchat,  
Facebook, Bitmoji, Meme.