Collective Worship

Week commencing 20 April 2020

This week there are two video clips so make sure your speakers are on and sound up

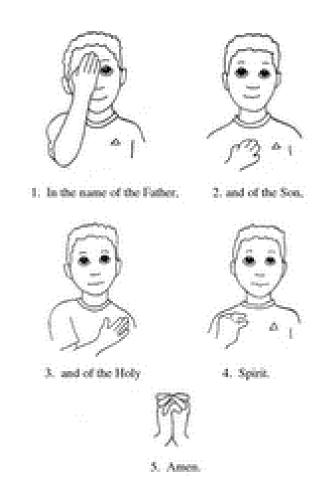
Make sure that you are sitting comfortably and that you are somewhere quiet.

Try to make sure that you will be able to think quietly and without distractions for a few minutes.

If you have one you might like to place a crucifix, a set of rosary beads, a bible, or another religious object next to your screen. Your worship is different to anything else from school that you will do today.

When you are ready, move on to the next slide.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Easter is a very special time of year. For Christians it is the most important time in the whole year.

How did you celebrate Easter Sunday?





Easter Sunday is only the start of Easter.

This week we are celebrating the fact that we are in the season of Easter, which lasts for seven whole weeks.

We are celebrating Jesus' resurrection.





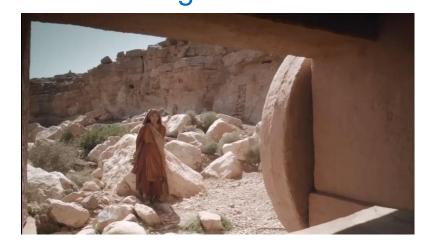
On the next slide you will listen to a reading from the Gospel of John

A reading from the Gospel of John

On Sunday morning while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.

She ran to Simon Peter and to Jesus' favourite disciple and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb! We don't know where they have put him."

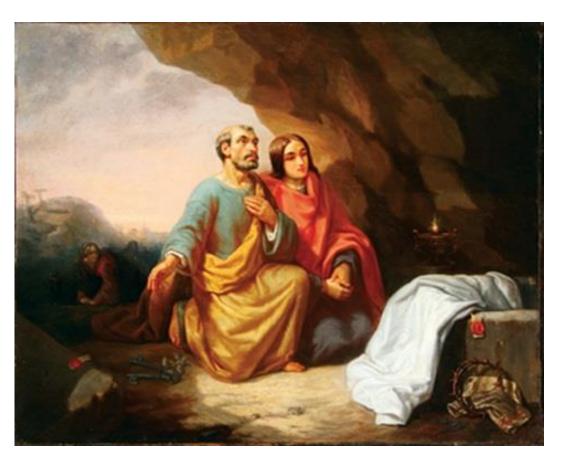
Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. They ran side by side, until the other disciple ran faster than Peter and got there first. He bent over and saw the strips of linen cloth lying inside the tomb, but he did not go in.



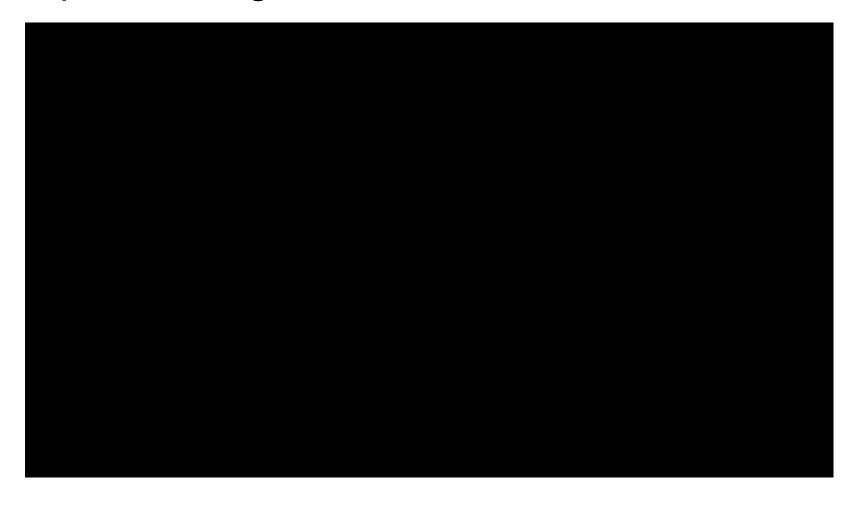
When Simon Peter got there, he went into the tomb and saw the strips of cloth. He also saw the piece of cloth that had been used to cover Jesus' face. It was rolled up and in a place by itself.

The disciple who got there first then went into the tomb, and when he saw it, he believed.

At that time Peter and the other disciple did not know that the Scriptures said Jesus would rise to life.



You can watch a short film version of today's Gospel reading here:



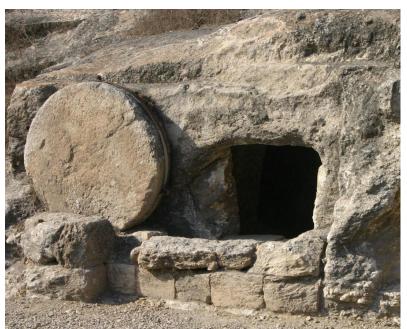
Spend one minute thinking ...

How do you think Mary Magdalene and Jesus' other friends felt?

How do **you** feel when you hear this reading?

Mary Magdalene and Jesus' other friends must have felt very puzzled when they discovered that Jesus' body was not in the tomb.

They had seen him die, and they knew that his body had been placed in the tomb. They did not know what had happened to him.



Later, Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene and Jesus' other friends. They recognised him, and understood that he had risen from the dead.



Their feelings changed from confusion to great joy. They thought that they would never see Jesus again, but then they could see him again.



Jesus was raised from the dead to show us that even after death, there is eternal life. Even after death, there is life in heaven.



Think about the things that make you happy. What is it that makes you happiest of all?



Can you describe how you feel when you are really happy?

Think about being even happier than the happiest you have ever felt! This is how Jesus' friends felt. Some things are very difficult (or impossible) for us to fully understand with our human brains.

How can someone who has died live again?

It was essential for Jesus' friends to see that Jesus was raised from the dead so that they could understand that all things are possible for God. We may not understand, but we can have faith and believe.

In one of his letters St Paul wrote about 'The peace of God which surpasses all human understanding'.



Sometimes we cannot understand or explain God's work, but we can believe it. This is why Christians give God titles like 'Almighty'.



Prayer



Let us be still and silent for one minute. Let us be thankful for the good things that God has given us.

We can be thankful for the wonders of God's creation.

We can be thankful for the gift of all the important people in our lives.

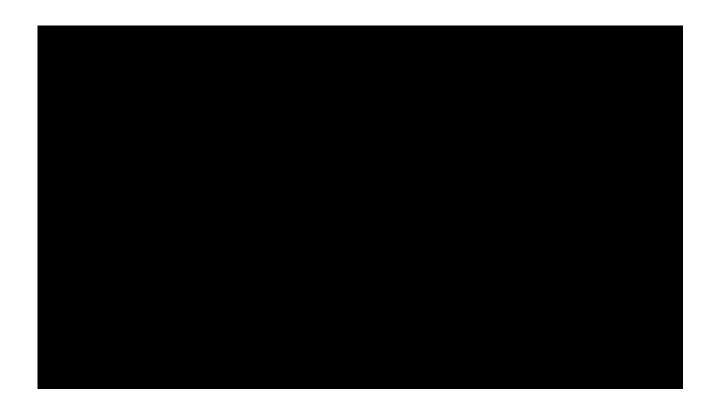
We can be thankful for God's promise of an eternal life.

What else can we be thankful for?

The season of Easter lasts for seven weeks.

How can you make sure that the whole seven weeks is a celebration?

How could you say 'Thank you' to God for the gift of Jesus, sacrificed on the cross and raised to eternal life?



A resurrection hymn to listen to and enjoy ... or join in with.

Don't forget to finish with the prayer on the next (last) slide.

Share a prayer



Dear Jesus, thank you for your promise of eternal life. In eternal life, please look after all those who have died. (You may like to think especially of anybody you have known who has died). Grant them Easter peace and joy in the fullness of resurrection.

Amen

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

