



Title: Resurrection

John 20:1-9

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the entrance. She went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

Then Peter and the other disciple went to the tomb. The two of them were running, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and saw the linen cloths, but he did not go in. Behind him came Simon Peter, and he went straight into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there and the cloth which had been around Jesus' head. It was not lying with the linen cloths but was rolled up by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in; he saw and believed. (They still did not understand the scripture which said that he must rise from death.)

Reflect: He is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! We have celebrated the most wonderful feast in our whole year - Easter is the reason our faith exists. Easter is, for Christians, the central and most joyful focus of our faith. Christ, after the most brutal torture and death rose from the dead. He came to life so that you and I could live in the joyful knowledge that all he taught us was truth. This season of Easter is such a joyful time - the preparation time of Lent is over, now we can throw ourselves into the joy. Easter isn't just one day, it's a whole season; a period of 50 days in which to celebrate all that is new and refreshed. We rejoice that Jesus rose from the dead to bring new life to each of us and we are grateful for all the new life that is evident around us. The new life that Jesus died to bring us lies in our hands - we were created in love by God to live our lives joyfully and in love. It is a time when we are challenged to show others through the way we treat them that we are Christians, "alive with the love of God".

- How did this Easter give you joy?
- How do you show that you are alive with the love of God?

Lord, we are seeing signs of new life all around us. The nights are getting lighter, the days brighter, bringing us spring flowers, budding trees and new born lambs.

These signs remind us of the new life that you gave to us, the hope that your resurrection brings. Thank you Lord. Amen

Pray for:

- those welcomed into the Church at Easter.
- people lacking joy in their lives.
- the grace to be joyful and thankful every day.
- those unable to celebrate their faith for fear of arrest or torture.
- people in our community who suffered loss or ill-health in the holiday

Scripture

Mission Week Prayer.

Dear Lord,

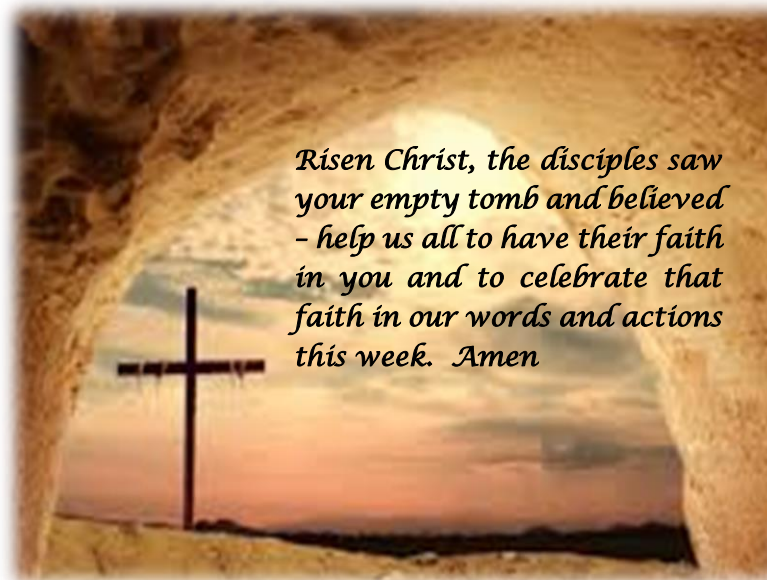
We are the seed of Notre Dame and we can grow together as a family if we love our neighbours the way God taught us to.

Our college Mission Week helps us to have faith to accept that with this gift nothing will be impossible so we can truly live out St Julie's message to "do small things with great love".

St Julie and Françoise pray for us, protect us and bless us.

Amen

Ever-living God, help us to celebrate our joy in the resurrection of the Lord and to express in our lives the love we celebrate. Through Christ Our Risen Lord, **Amen**



Risen Christ, the disciples saw your empty tomb and believed - help us all to have their faith in you and to celebrate that faith in our words and actions this week. Amen

Focus on one each day

Prayer in action this week:

- Show your joy on your face each day.
- Say thank you to those who make a difference.
- Count your blessings.
- Be there for someone who is unhappy.
- Share your joy with others.

Easter is a time to be joyful!

(encourage students to think of those people/things specific to them during each time of pause)

This afternoon Lord, I want to bring to you all the things that make me feel happy:

Members of my family... *(pause)*

My friends... *(pause)*

People who go out of their way to make my life better... *(pause)*

Hobbies and pastimes ... *(pause)*

Thank you Lord for the joy all these bring to me, through you.

Happy Easter

Heaven and earth you made

Almighty Father, your only-begotten son you gave

Priest and King, Lamb of God

Passion and death on a cross

You, Lord Jesus, made us children of God.

Encourage us to believe

All our love and praise receive

So joyful and glorious

The Lord is risen, miraculous

Endless is your love, O Lord

Rejoicing, we thank you, our God.

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Father,

We thank you for the love of your son, Jesus Christ.

We thank you that he offered his life for us on the cross.

We thank you that by his death he has destroyed the power of death and won, for all who believe in Him, everlasting life.

We thank you that He is with us always and that nothing in life or in death can separate us from Him.

Amen

If you want happiness for an hour - take a nap.

If you want happiness for a day - go fishing.

If you want happiness for a year - inherit a fortune.

If you want happiness for a lifetime - help someone else.

Chinese Proverb

An Easter Blessing:

May the loving power of God, which raised Jesus to new life, strengthen you in hope, enrich you with his love, and fill you with joy in the faith; and the blessing of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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

Jesus our friend and our brother,

Through your life and your journey to the cross, your death and resurrection how to live in love.

May we always follow your example, living of life of compassion, in the search for peace through justice for all your people.

Amen

