

## Year C - Easter

### John 20:1-9

*The teaching of Scripture is that Jesus must rise from the dead.*



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.



# Year C - First Sunday of Easter

## John 20:1-9

*God loves you and me so much that he sent his son Jesus*



### Background for leaders

For this Gospel, there is no richer or more profound message than to simply proclaim the story itself because the events of Easter are at the heart of the Good News!

It's a bold thing to say that we believe that Jesus died and rose again on the third day, but that is exactly what we profess each time we say the Creed together! In the Catechism of the Catholic Church we read: "The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ, a faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community; handed on as fundamental by Tradition; established by the documents of the New Testament; and preached as an essential part of the Paschal mystery along with the cross: Christ is risen from the dead! Dying, he conquered death; To the dead, he has given life (CCC. para. 489)

As leaders, we encourage you to look up the section in the Catechism that covers this fundamental part of our faith [https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/\\_INDEX.HTM](https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM) (go to the section titled 'On the third day he rose from the dead' paragraphs 638 to 655). As you read it, ask the Holy Spirit to inspire you, so that you can proclaim the story of Easter to the children in your group, with faith and confidence.

In this section of the Catechism, you'll read:

- that the resurrection of Jesus was a historical event
- about the many, many witnesses to Jesus' resurrection
- that, "in his risen body [Jesus] passes from the state of death to another life beyond time and space" (with children we say, 'he is alive in a new and wonderful way').
- that all of Jesus' life and teachings was confirmed by his resurrection.
- that Jesus resurrection is the fulfilment of promises made in the Old Testament, New Testament and by Jesus himself.
- that, because of Jesus death and resurrection, we can share in God's life.
- and finally, that because of Jesus' resurrection, we can have hope that we will also live for eternity with God.

# Year C - First Sunday of Easter

## Luke 4:1-13

*God loves you and me so much that he sent his son Jesus*

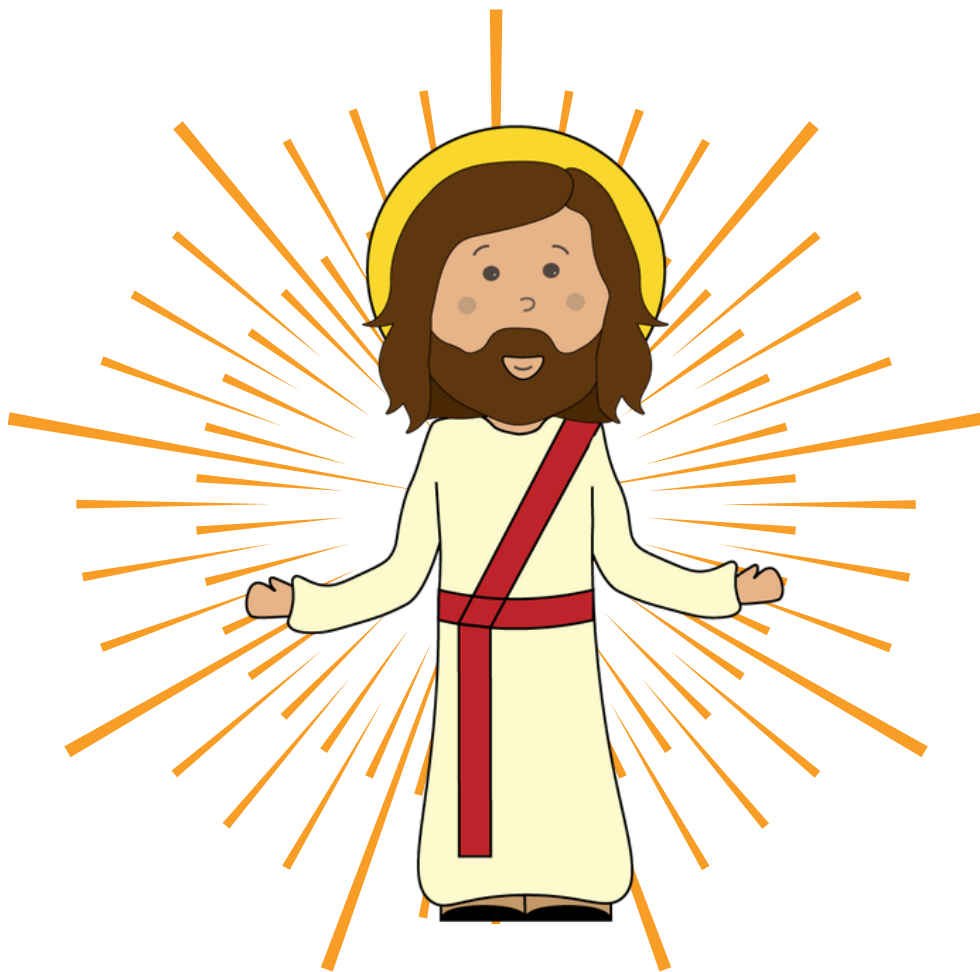


### Message

Introduce this message by explaining to the children that the celebration of Easter is the most important celebration for people who are followers of Jesus... even bigger than Christmas! Because it is the celebration when Jesus accomplished everything he intended and completed his mission.

Before reading the Gospel, invite the children to recap on the events of Holy Week so far. You may like to use a prop such as the Holy Week story eggs on the activity page to help with this?

Then, read the Gospel with the children (If you wish, you may display the following page using a data projector or print it as a poster).



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. John 20:1-9

