

EASTER DAY (YEAR A) Sunday 5 April 2026

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

EASTER EGGS

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Introducing the Gospel

The empty tomb (Matthew 28:1-10)

Matthew's Gospel gives an account of the first Easter morning with considerable theatrical effect. There was an earthquake, the angel's appearance was like lightning and the guards shook with fear. At the heart of the narrative, however, stands the stark and simple message of the empty tomb. The angelic messenger spells out the implications: 'He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.' The empty tomb points to the Easter message of new life.

The image to stimulate reflection on Matthew's account of the first Easter morning is the *Easter eggs*, as a sign of new life.

Core extract from the Gospel (Matthew 28: 5-7; for reflection throughout the week)

But the angel said to the women,
'Do not be afraid;
I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.
He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.
Come, see the place where he lay.
Then go quickly and tell his disciples,
"He has been raised from the dead,
and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee;
there you will see him."
This is my message for you.'

Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are risen, you are risen indeed, alleluia!
Lord Jesus Christ,
send your disciples to the four corners of the earth,
to proclaim the good news of Easter to all people.
Lord Jesus Christ,
you are risen, you are risen indeed, alleluia!
Amen.

READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Matthew 28: 1-10

The Resurrection of Jesus

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

EASTER DAY (YEAR A) Sunday 5 April 2026

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME

Dwelling with the text (Matthew 28: 1-10)

Begin to explore Matthew's account of the first Easter morning by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

Thinking and talking

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- What do you understand by Jesus resting in the tomb over the sabbath?
- How do you interpret the timing of resurrection, as the first day of the week was dawning?
- What is significant about the angel's message to the women?
- What is significant about Jesus' message to the women?
- What does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

Explore how the other two synoptic Gospels (Mark and Luke) related the Easter narrative.

- Mark 16: 1-7
- Luke 24: 1-12

Explore how the fourth Gospel (John) related the Easter narrative.

- John 20: 1-18

Explore key ideas from the Old Testament that resonate with the Easter narrative.

- Genesis 1: 1-5
- Psalm 16: 9-11
- Psalm 118: 14-24

EASTER DAY (YEAR A) Sunday 5 April 2026

Exploring online

Widen your exploration of Matthew's account of the first Easter morning by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- Hatching eggs
- Eastern Orthodox Easter traditions
- Painting Easter eggs

Drawing on experience

The image to stimulate reflection on Matthew's account of the first Easter morning is *Easter eggs* as a sign of new life. Draw on your experience of Easter eggs. For example:

- Have you experienced hatching eggs?
- Have you seen the new life of recently hatched chicks?
- Have you experienced eggs in Easter celebrations?

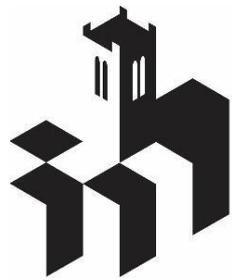
What have you learned about Easter eggs?

Creating and making

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by Matthew's account of the first Easter morning or by the image of Easter eggs.

- Decorate hard-boiled eggs to create a display.
- Make an Easter garden with the empty tomb and Easter eggs as a sign of new life.
- Make a collage drawing on Matthew's account of the first Easter morning.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of Easter or on the image of Easter eggs.

EASTER DAY (YEAR A) Sunday 5 April 2026



**Liverpool
Cathedral**

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales.



The scripture quotations contained in these materials are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Anglicised Edition, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and is used with permission. All rights reserved.

Copyright © Leslie J. Francis, 2026
Canon Theologian Liverpool Cathedral
with sponsorship and support from
St Mary's Centre, Wales