

## Celebrating Easter at Home

Easter is a season not just a day. And yet, how easily that season can slip by, unnoticed in the busyness of life. In this article I offer ten ideas for keeping the spirit of Easter alive in our homes. Aim to do something different or a little special as a family each week of the Easter season, right up to Pentecost Sunday. May you proclaim the risen Lord in the fabric of everyday life.

- 1. Bask in the light of Christ.** Bring out the baptismal candles of your children and pray with around them after dinner or before bedtime. With the aid of photos, remember and retell the stories of the special day of their baptism.
- 2. Live the Easter Gospels.** The Easter Gospels are full of vivid, wonder-filled stories of the risen Jesus appearing to his disciples. Bring these scenes alive by reading them in a creative setting which reflects the story. For instance, rise to greet the dawn (Jn 20:1), barbeque some fish on the beach (Jn 21:9), pray on a mountain top (Mt 28:16).
- 3. Greet one another.** Instead of the standard 'G'day' or grunt in the morning, greet one another with a traditional Christian greeting: 'He is risen!' 'He is risen indeed.'
- 4. Play Easter music.** Bring out all your favourite 'easter' music. Sing or play plenty of 'alleluias' and songs of praise during this joyful season.
- 5. Use symbols of life.** Creatively use easter symbols in your home: water, light and signs of life. Fill a bowl with water and float candles, decorate your front door with boughs of greenery. Shock yourself with a cold shower one morning - just to remind you of the waters of your baptism and the bracing freshness of the gospel! If you are expecting or have a newborn babe your home this is indeed a sacred sign of the gospel of life.
- 6. Easter activity.** Enjoy a simple easter activity with your children. For instance, paint designs on hardboiled eggs. Plant a seedling. With rocks and plants create an 'empty tomb' scene in the garden. Perform an easter play. Amidst all your creativity, talk about the meaning of Easter and tell the 'Jesus' story.
- 7. Share Good News stories.** Around the dinner table, share one of the great blessings of your life. How has God gifted you with love, faith, new life? Set up a Good News list on your 'fridge door. Invite people to jot down all the blessings of their week.
- 8. Be a missionary.** You don't have to go overseas to be a missionary. In your own home pray for the world, that God's Love may be felt by every person. Offer Christian hospitality. Envelop visitors in the faith of your home, perhaps 'breaking bread' with them at a family meal. As a family take part in a social justice project or a neighbourhood outreach.
- 9. Welcome a newcomer.** By this time many people on the RCIA journey will have been baptized in their local parish. Share in the welcome with a warm greeting and an invitation to visit your home for a cup of coffee. Ask about their faith journey and listen carefully - the newly baptised are in a unique position to proclaim the Good News.
- 10. Spread Christ's peace.** During the Easter season focus on giving warmer handshakes, bigger smiles, tender touches. Laughter, humour and good plain fun are also key ingredients to experiencing the joy of the risen Christ.

