



Ten ways to Celebrate Easter at Home

Easter is a season not just a Sunday. Aim to do something different or a little special as a family each week of the Easter season, right up to Pentecost Sunday. Proclaim the risen Lord through the events of everyday life.

1. Bask in the light of Christ

Bring out the baptismal candles of your children and pray together after dinner or before bedtime. With the aid of photos, remember and retell the stories of the day of their baptism.

2. Live the Easter Gospels

The Easter Gospels are full of vivid and wonderful stories of the risen Jesus appearing to his disciples. Bring these scenes alive by reading them in a creative setting which reflects the story: e.g., rise to greet the dawn (Jn 20:1), barbeque some fish on the beach (Jn 21:9), pray on a hilltop (Mt 28:16).

3. Greet one another

Instead of the standard 'G'day' or grunt, greet one another on Easter morning with a traditional Christian greeting: 'He is risen!' (and in reply:) 'He is risen indeed.'

4. Play Easter music

Bring out all your favourite 'easter' music and sing 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. Light candles, fill a bowl with water, 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 is indeed a sacred sign of the gospel of life.

6. Easter activity

Enjoy a simple Easter activity with your children: paint hardboiled eggs, plant a seedling, with rocks and plants create an 'empty tomb' scene in the garden, perform an Easter play. As you get creative, 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. In what way 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 saving 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 Easter 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, for the newly-baptized 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 real ingredients to experiencing the joy of the risen Christ!

Helpful Hint

When we speak of sharing the Easter message with 'our children' we refer to a task for every adult, not just parents with young children. We all have children in our lives—nieces, nephews, godchildren, neighbours. Parent or otherwise, be aware of your own creative power to bring forth life and love in our world.