



# EASTER 2023

**“Accept the Risen Christ into your life. Even if you have been far away, take a small step towards him: he awaits you with open arms.” Pope Francis**

EASTER

# He is Risen...

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vK-gRspnBU&list=PLq49LmMGlxmCoUREtLk5nBYQZpE1WS3NJ>

# Easter Vigil



# THE SERVICE OF LIGHT





The Easter Fire  
At the Easter Vigil, the Paschal candle is lit from this new fire.

# Resurrection Light

Risen Christ, when darkness  
overwhelms us  
may your dawn beckon.

When fear paralyses us  
may your touch release us.

When grief torments us  
may your peace enfold us.

When memories haunt us  
may your presence heal us.

When justice fails us  
may your anger ignite us.

When apathy stagnates us  
may your challenge renew us.

When courage leaves us  
may your spirit inspire us.

When despair grips us  
may your hope restore us.

And when death threatens us  
may your resurrection light lead  
us.

Amen.

*Annabel Shilson-Thomas/CAFOD*

# The Paschal Candle



The Paschal Candle is the great Christian symbol of Easter. It is lit from the Easter fire at the start of the Easter vigil. Representing the risen Christ – the light of the world – the Paschal Candle is carried into the darkened church. Everyone in the congregation lights their small candle from this Easter candle.

# The Light of Christ

The light of God has  
come to us  
so that we might  
have salvation



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbLHOA6mRkk>





**This magnificent lighting  
up of the darkness is a  
powerful reflection of the  
presence of Jesus among  
the people...**

**Christ is alive and living  
among them**

# The Paschal Candle



The candle is placed on a high stand by the altar and remains lighting for every Liturgy over the fifty days of Easter.

# Paschal Candle at the Baptismal Font



After the season of Easter, the paschal candle is placed beside the baptismal font and is lit for every celebration of Baptism. A new paschal candle is lit each Easter.



# Easter Proclamation: Exsultet

- The *Exsultet* is the Easter Proclamation, sung at the end of the Service of Light, the first part of the Easter Vigil. It tells the story of the whole Easter mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

# Easter Proclamation: *Exsultet*

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YETnSx9HuMo>
- From Glenstal Abbey
  
- The Exsultet is sung in the light of the paschal candle at the Easter Vigil. This great poetic text proclaims the history of salvation and its fulfilment in the mystery of Easter.

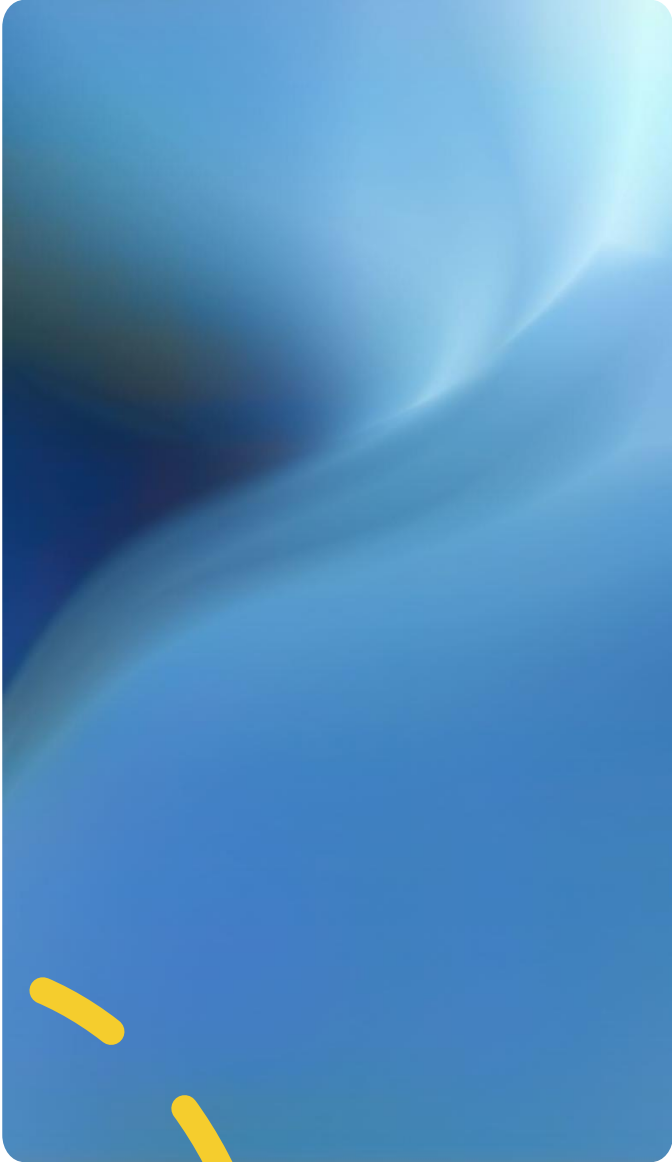




# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

- <https://catholicreadings.org/holy-saturday-night-easter-vigil-readings/>
- **Easter Vigil Readings 2023 – April 8 2023 – During the Holy Saturday Night of Easter – The Resurrection of the Lord**

# THE LITURGY OF BAPTISM



The Easter  
water is  
blessed

New members  
are brought  
into the Church  
through  
baptism

The liturgy  
includes the  
Litany of the  
Saints.

Renewal of  
Baptismal  
promises

# THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

- Through the celebration of the Eucharist, the Church continues to celebrate the resurrection of the Lord.





# Easter Sunday

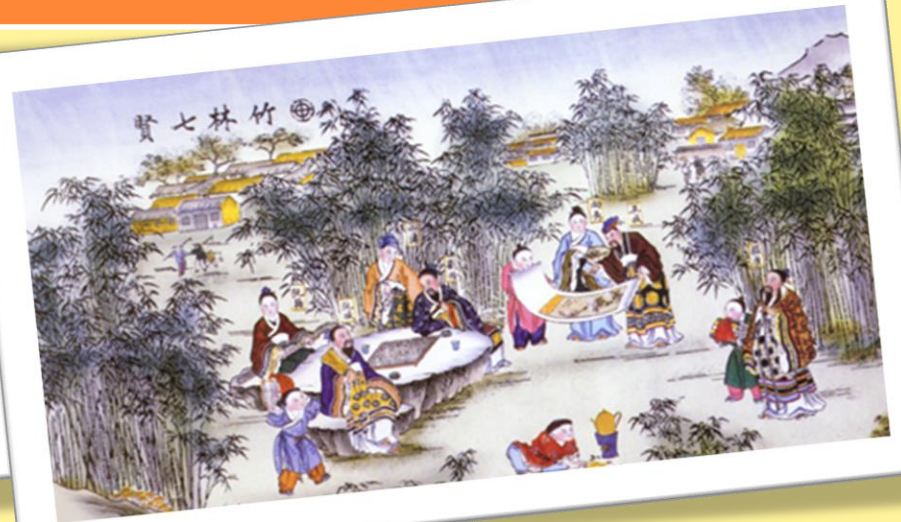


- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0HY9PM9sWhw>

# Easter Eggs



In the pre-Christian world, the egg was a common symbol of spring festivals, from Rome to China. The egg symbolised the rebirth of the earth in springtime after a long winter.



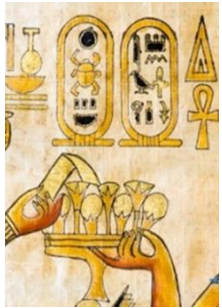
*Spring festivals in Ancient Rome and China*

# Easter Eggs



At this time of year, the days begin to lengthen. Just as new life bursts from the egg, so do plants and crops emerge from the barren earth.






The tradition for eggs to be decorated with colours and symbols and given as gifts became popular; in recognition that the cycle of life had begun once again.

# Easter Eggs

Christianity retained the egg as a symbol of Easter, its major springtime celebration. It now symbolised the risen Christ emerging from the tomb. Eggs were painted with religious symbols: the triangle representing the Father, Son and Spirit was very common, as were pictures of Jesus emerging from the tomb.



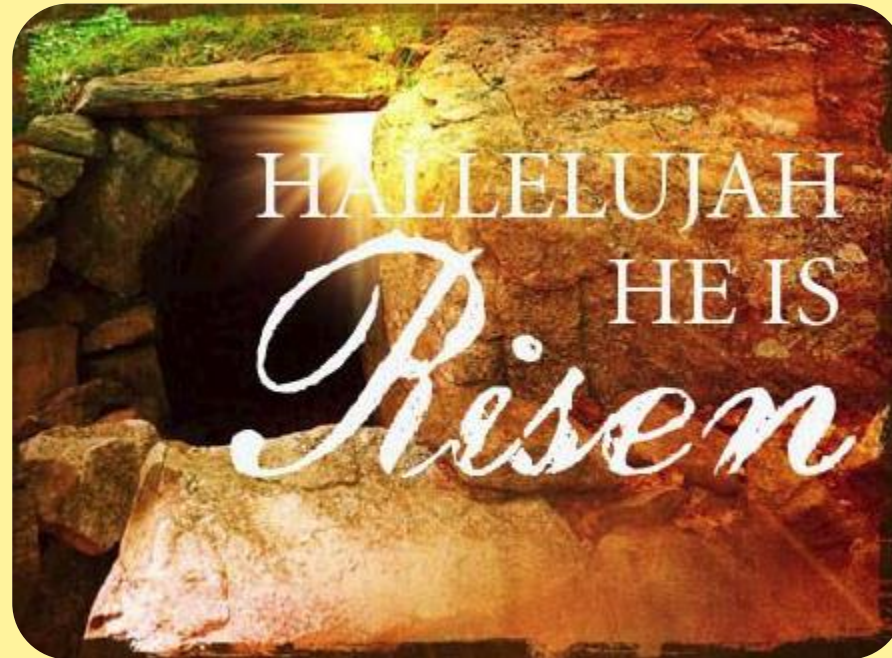


For Christians, Easter is the most important event in the Liturgical Year.



He is Risen...

# ALLELUIA

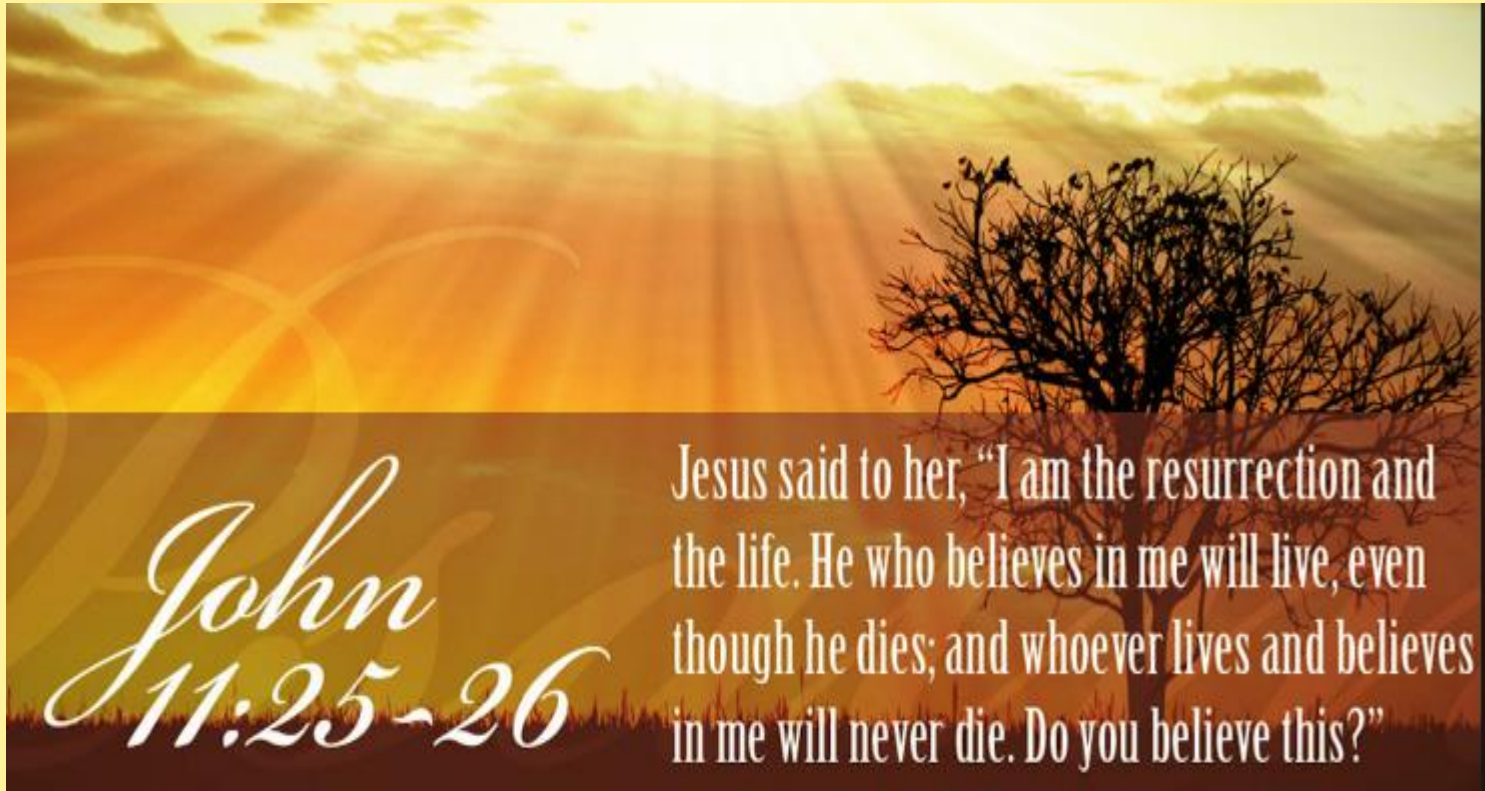


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LajyjD0nzF4>



He is Risen

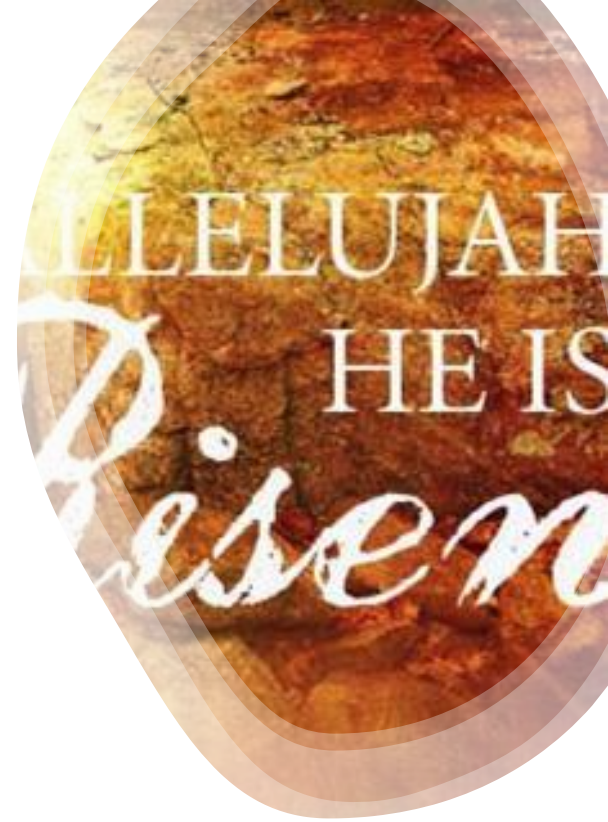
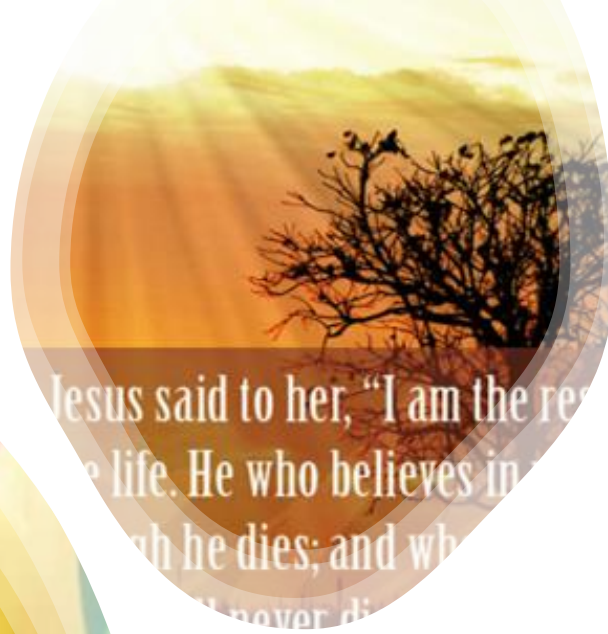
# Happy Easter!



*John  
11:25-26*

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"





Happy Easter!

# An Easter Poem

Sturdy, deep green tulip shoots.  
How did they know  
it was time to push up through the long-wintered soil?  
How did they know  
it was the moment to resurrect,  
while thick layers of stubborn ice  
still pressed the bleak ground flat?  
But the tulips knew.

They came, rising strongly, a day after the ice died.

There's a hope-filled place in me  
that also knows when to rise,  
that waits for the last layer of ice  
to melt into obscurity.  
It is urged by the strong sun  
warming my wintered heart.  
It is nudged by the Secret One,  
calling, calling, calling:  
"Arise, my love, and come."  
My heart stirs like dormant tulips  
and hope comes dancing forth.

Not unlike the Holy One  
kissing the morning sun,  
waving a final farewell  
to a tomb emptied of its treasure. (Joyce Rupp)

