

# Refresh



Brisbane River – Savage's Crossing



**at HOME**

March-April  
2021



..... Christ Centered – All Age – Celebration – Creativity – Hospitality .....



**Hello,** I greet you in the name of Jesus! This is a greeting that Christians have used over the centuries, and I thought it appropriate in this edition of Messy Church at Home because as we move toward the Easter events we are reminded again of the great gift Jesus is for us. In the Bible in the book of Philippians 4:21 the people were told to 'greet all the saints in Christ Jesus.' 'Saints' meaning Christians who live in any place and also those people of God who have gone before us. As we move into this year, with Covid restrictions of one kind or another and others waiting on receiving vaccines, we can do with some refreshing in our lives.

So I hope when I say to you as one of the saints: 'I greet you in the name of Jesus' you receive the greeting with joy and a sense of God's presence that refreshes and blesses you.

It is March already and as we get into the year 'Refresh' seems an appropriate theme for this edition of Messy Church at Home – we always need refreshing of some kind or another. Whether it is hand sanitizer, a refreshing drink on a hot day, or refreshing the information on our computer. Sometimes we also we need refreshing when we have been through difficult or messy times. Even though the Easter story can be sad as we think about Jesus dying on the cross, it is also a time that reminds us of God's refreshing good news for us.

When Jesus travelled around with the disciples healing, speaking, performing miracles and healing, he lived in the midst of a messy, and difficult times of an occupying army with an oppressive and unfair regime. Then, to top it all off, Jesus is crucified on the town rubbish dump. But it is into this mess that Jesus comes with good news, just as he comes into our lives. Jesus is the very one who can help us to be refreshed in our faith because he died and then rose from the dead. God's love for the world could not be contained in the mess! We hope you can experience the refreshing of faith and love of God as you engage in the Easter story.

We hope you enjoy this edition of Messy Church at Home.  
God Bless

Messy Church Team

## Getting ready for Messy Church at Home:

To begin Messy Church, you are invited to make a special centre piece in a place where you and your family can think about God. If you have a cross, and a candle place them in the centre of your space. Use this space to think about the theme 'refresh the mess' and allow everyone add things to symbolise what this theme suggests.

Use the candle to begin your Messy Church at Home time together by 'lighting' the candle and someone saying, *'We light this candle to remind us that Jesus is the good news for our world.'* Then use our Messy Church at Home greeting and say to each other *'welcome to Messy Church, we are glad you are here'*. 😊





# Celebration



## The Story of Easter

The months of March and April this year take in the Christian seasons of Lent and Easter. It is one of the significant times in the Christian year and full of drama, emotions, faith stories and times of reflection.

**Lent** is the 40 days ending 9 days before Easter with Psalm Sunday and is usually a time when some people think and pray about their faith and life how they follow Jesus. It is like a time of preparing to hear the Easter story in fresh and deeper ways. Lent finishes with Palm Sunday, when Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey (Luke 19: 28-40).

**Easter** is the high point of our faith when we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus. Besides being a very sad time it is also a time of deep thankfulness where we give thanks for Jesus and all he did for us – this is the gift of grace for us – that refreshes our faith and love of Jesus.

**Read the story** from the Bible or children's Bible in Mark chapters 14-15 or watch Saddleback Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HL8R158Ujp4> Also Australian Author Andrew McDonough in the Lost Sheep series has great Easter stories like: Dave the Donkey, The Way of the Cross, Mary and the Gardner, and others - <https://www.lostsheep.com.au/>



## Thinking about the story



Make an Easter Story Box. This is a box or bag full of things that remind you about different parts of the Easter story. As a family or household, brainstorm items that could go in the box.

If you don't have an item you want to add, you can just draw a picture of that item. Once you have put the items in the box, gather around the box and have each person draw out an item, and then explain the story that goes with that item. It is a great idea to keep this box from year to year, and bring it out at Easter to help tell the Easter story. Over time you can add 'treasures' to the box and reflect on the new items that have become significant in your understanding of the Easter story.

## Prayer

Use the items in the box to prompt your prayers.

Here are some suggestions:

Nails – pray for people who are in pain

Cross – pray for others who do not know Jesus

Thorns – pray for people who are in difficult places

Cup and plate – pray for those who do not have enough food

Chicken – pray for the natural world

Coins – pray for economies

Fish – pray for your church



# Creativity

## Embossed Easter Cross

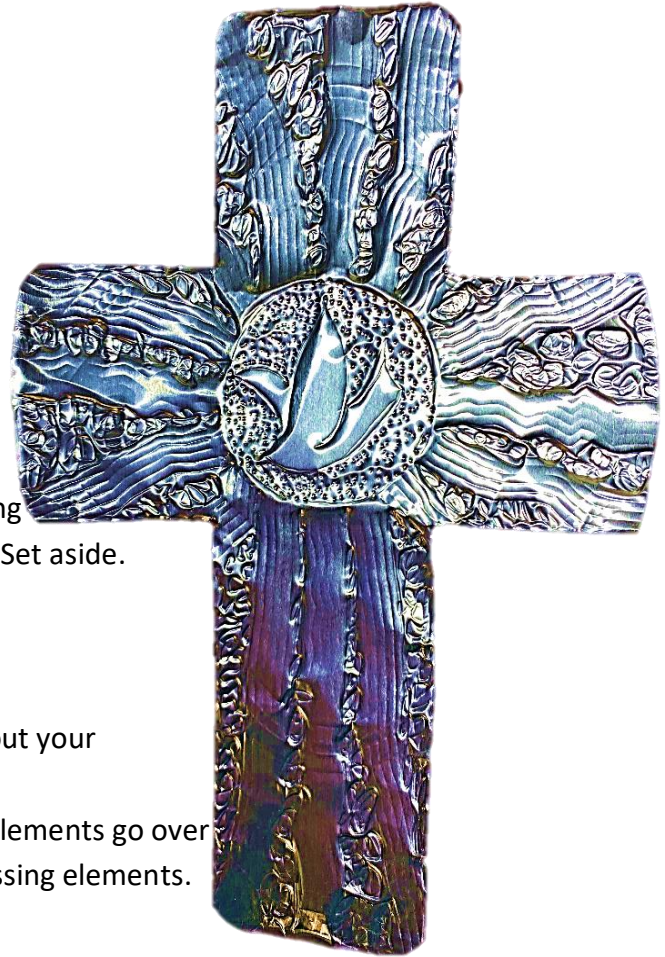
*Embossing is making a mark on a flat surface (e.g. paper or metal) to create a raised or depressed surface.*

### Resources:

- Tin Foil tray/take away container
- Blunt pointed stick or knitting needle and other implements to emboss
- Scissors

### To make:

- Flatten the container by cutting the corners so you can spread the tray out flat.
- Mark out a cross shape on the foil either using a paper template or use a ruler or freehand. Set aside.
- Onto thin paper, draw around the foil cross (use writing paper, baking paper).
- Draw out your design on the paper.
- Overlay your paper design and lightly mark out your design with a blunt pencil or pen.
- Discard the paper. With your embossing implements go over the design, adding textures and other embossing elements.



### Optional extras

- Colour the tin cross with permanent markers.
- Mount the cross on tin foil covered cardboard or felt card.

### Talk about:

A time when someone made an impression on you with a story of faith.

Tell about a time when you meet someone and you were impressed by them in some way.

What impresses you about Jesus?

Here are a couple of examples to think about. Jesus often made an impression on people: The woman at the well who when she went back to her village said: "Come and see the man who told me everything I have ever done. Could he be the Messiah?" (Matthew 4:29), and Zacchaeus after he had met Jesus turned his life around (Luke 19)

# Creativity

## Crowing Chook

### Resources

- 1 disposable cup (not foam)
- 1 piece of string 30cm
- 1 match stick
- Small sponge
- Cardboard/felt beak & comb shape
- Joggle eyes or pen to draw eyes
- Feather, bits to decorate
- Glue
- Skewer – sharp point implement
- Scissors
- Permanent pen for marking eyes
- Containers with water



### To make:

- Make a hole in the bottom of the cup with a skewer.
  - Thread string through the hole in the bottom of the cup.
  - Tie the matchstick to the outside of the hole end.
  - Glue head comb & beak, draw eyes.
  - Decorate with feathers etc.
  - Tie a sponge to the other end.
- To make the chicken 'crowing' sound: Wet the sponge and pull down the string.

**Talk about:** A time when you just wanted to shout out some good news!

This craft also reminds us of the part in the Easter story when the disciple Peter said he didn't know Jesus. Luke 22:54-62. Maybe you have a story about a time when you found it hard to tell someone about Jesus?



## Refresh Packs

Put together some 'refresh packs' to give to your local community centre, food bank or homeless shelter. It is a good idea to call the centre before-hand to find out what needed and the best way to package the items and items that are in high demand.

**Talk about:** a time when the actions of others refreshed or encouraged you.



# Creativity

## Easter Table-Centre

*Enjoy making this table centre-piece to remind your family of the real meaning of Easter. You could make the hill out of sand or potting mix. But we thought for our friends in lock-down and had a bright idea that the hill could be made out of balls of recycled scrunched paper.*



### Resources

- Paper plate
- Scrap paper, old magazines
- Glue – white glue or PVA glue
- 6 sticks for crosses
- String
- Decorations e.g. dried flowers, leaves, cut out pictures of flowers
- Sign shape (folded card) and pen



# Creativity

Easter Table Centre continued.....

## To make:

- Choose an appropriate place to make this craft.
- Rip up recycle paper and scrunch pieces into balls of different sizes. Use glue to soften and mould the paper balls.
- Start off with larger balls of paper, and form a ring around the inside ring of the paper plate.
- Fill the ring and start building up the hill.
- Leave a space for the cave mouth and the inside cave space. With glue and crumpled paper you will be able to sculpt as you build.
- As you form the hill, you will find that smaller paper balls will be easier to fill in the spaces between the larger 'rocks'.
- Note: The example model was built with an under hill using scrap photocopy paper but then used old magazine brown coloured paper to cover the hill. Recycled brown paper bags will also make good rocks too.
- Make a large rock for the stone that was rolled away.
- Decorate the completed hill with dried flowers, leaves, or cut out pictures of flowers.
- With string tie the sticks together to form 3 crosses.
- Use a pencil to put holes in the paper hill and place crosses in position.
- Write on the sign
- Put the sign in or near the tomb.

**Talk about:** For you what is the most important message you want to give others at Easter? Is there a friend or family member who needs to hear this message? How can you tell them this message?

## Hide & Seek Game



Play a game of hide and seek. Here are a couple of ways you can play the game:

1. Play indoors or outdoors. Before you start, agree on set boundaries and no-go areas such as bedrooms. Have someone who is 'it' who goes and hides while the rest count to a designated number e.g. 50. When the number is reached the group calls out 'coming ready or not' and then go and find the hidden person.
2. Hidden toy. 🐣 Before you start, agree on set the boundaries etc. Have someone hide the toy. Others in the family or household look for the toy and when you find it call out an Easter message like 'Jesus is risen!' - the person who found the toy rehides it to play again. Play this game over the Easter holidays.

**Talk about:** How do you think Jesus looks for us?

*For the Son of Man (Jesus) came to seek and save those who are lost. Luke 19:10*



# Hospitality

Hospitality is an important part of Messy Church, and although sharing a meal together has been difficult, being able to do something special as a home Messy Church marks the occasion. You could plan your meal around things that are fresh or refreshing to eat or drink! For us in Queensland the weather is hot, humid and at present an afternoon a tropical storm breaks around 3pm, so an icy-pole to cool down and fresh fruit makes a nice afternoon tea to share.

## Fruit Icy-Poles

**Ingredients:** Fresh fruit that has been liquefied in a blender (or use juice or made-up cordial)

**Method:**

Pour the liquefied fruit or cordial straight into Icy-pole molds or a cup with a pop stick to make the icy-pole handle and freeze.

Or to make two-tone icy-poles:

- Pour liquid into ice block tray (one colour per tray)
- Freeze
- Take one colour ice blocks and re-liquefy in the blender
- Place second colour ice-blocks in the moulds and pour the first colour icy liquid over the blocks to the top
- Refreeze, and when ready and frozen enjoy



## Fruit Skewers

**Ingredients:** fresh fruit cut or prepared in bite size pieces and 1 orange

**Method:** thread fruit onto a tooth-pick or small skewer. Poke the skewers into the orange to make a decorative fruit ball.

**Give thanks:** Use this grace to give thanks to God for our food.

*For these and all your many blessings, God we are truly thankful. Amen*

# Blessing

As you finish Messy Church at Home here is a blessing to say together and to each other.

***May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ***

*(hold out your hands as if expecting a present)*

***And the love of God*** *(put your hands on your heart)*

***And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit*** *(hold hands)*

***Amen*** *(raise arms)*



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