

The Mystery of Easter

The cross can help us think about the Mystery that is Easter.

Use the templates on the next few sheets to help you.

You will also need:

- A piece of plain white card or thick paper - 24cm x 18cm (A4)
- A pencil, a ruler, crayons, felt tips or paints and scissors.

Instructions:

Lay the squares on the paper to make a cross shape. You could keep them still with bits of sticky-tac. Draw round them, so that you have a cross on the paper, and cut it out. If you use larger squares, you can make a bigger cross.

The cross that helps us think about the mystery is purple on one side, like the one in the picture.

Purple is a serious colour; the colour of kings and queens. People called Jesus a king, but he was not the kind of king they were expecting.

They gave him a crown: it was not a golden crown, but a crown of thorns. Perhaps he wore it on the cross. And on the cross where Jesus was crucified, they put a sign: Jesus Christ, the King of the Jews.

Maybe you could write a sign to go with your cross. Perhaps you could colour one side of your cross purple. You could make your cross into a jigsaw.

Maybe you could cut it like the one in the picture. Perhaps you could cut it into as many pieces as there are people in your house, so you each have a piece.

Jesus died on the cross, and that is very sad. The people who put him there thought that was the end of him: finished. But it wasn't. When we turn over the cross, when we turn over the pieces, the serious purple vanishes. The cross changes.

When some women went to the tomb on the third day, the stone was rolled away and the body of Jesus was gone. They were afraid. Their hearts were beating so loudly.

But something had changed. They knew then that Jesus was with them in a new way. The sadness had gone and they felt pure joy.

That is the mystery of Easter: the sadness and the seriousness are changed. You can't separate the sadness and the happiness.

As we turn the pieces over, we see the sad side, and the joyful side. It was always like this – we cannot separate them.

Read the story for yourself.

www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+16&version=NRSVA

Draw the story onto your cross. People in Guatemala have painted stories onto crosses for a long time. You can see one here: <https://market.unicef.org.uk/product/guatemalan-hand-painted-wood-cross-village-of-love/E39991/>

Why not make your cross into a sign of joy.

You could decorate the joyful side in any way you like. Perhaps each person in your house could decorate their own piece. Then you could put them all together as a celebration. In normal times we could have flowers and eggs (and perhaps bunnies and hares, and Easter bonnets and so many things) to help our celebration. But these are not normal times – no parties, no outings, no singing, no getting together. So we must do what we can. Perhaps you could play with the pieces and make something else.

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Alleluia.

He has defeated the powers of death.

Alleluia.

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing.

Alleluia.

The women who went to the tomb were not the only people to know Jesus with them. So many people knew Jesus was with them in a new way. And ever since then, people have been able to know Jesus in a new way – in the singing, in eating together; for some it is in bread and wine, for some it may be on the top of a hill; for some it will be when they say prayers, or when they read a book, or listen to someone else explaining. There are so many ways to know the Jesus who is with us: perhaps it is different for everyone. And the cross is always there, with its two sides: the serious side and the joyful side. We cannot take them apart. So why don't you wonder a bit about your cross.

I wonder what you liked best about your cross?

I wonder what is most important part of the cross?

I wonder which side of the cross you feel most like today?

I wonder if we could tell this story any other way?

I wonder what else we can do to celebrate the pure joy, the Mystery of Easter?





