

# Ramadan

- Last week it was a pleasure to learn more about the month of Ramadan.
- We thank our students who created and shared their video on Ramadan. It was such a great way to learn more about the Muslim faith and importance of this time for our Muslim community.



THANK YOU  
SO MUCH

YOU ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!



# Easter – The Greatest Love

Thought for the Week – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024

# What does great **love** look like?

For many people love means romance. But there is more to **love** than this. What other ways do we **love** one another in our world? *Discuss in pairs*

Is **love** a feeling?

**Or is there more to it?**



# Love for friends

Do you “love” your friends?

Why/why not?

What actions towards our friends are loving? What actions are unloving?



“Lust is easy. Love is hard. Like is more important.” – Carl Reiner.

What does this quote mean? Is it true? What difference would it make if we believed it?

# Love for strangers

Around the world there are terrible acts of violence that can be difficult to understand. There are times when people respond when in danger and help strangers. This demonstrates **love** and bravery in times of need. Many people show **love** to people they have never met before.

**Why might people do this?**



# Love for enemies

Christians believe that God showed his **love** for us by sending Jesus into the world, who willingly died on the cross in the place of sinners.

Christians believe he was the only perfect person who has ever lived, and yet he was crucified like a criminal. Through his life, Jesus consistently taught that we should love our enemies. Before he died, he said, "Father forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing."

Is it possible to **love** your enemies? What might that look like?

# What does Easter mean to you?

It will soon be the Easter holidays.

During the Easter holidays we have a four day weekend. It is the only time in the year when we regularly have a weekend with a bank holiday on both the Friday and the Monday

In addition to this, Easter Sunday is the only Sunday in the year when big shops are not allowed to open (as well as Christmas Day, if that happened to be on a Sunday)

**What are your thoughts of this? Should shops close on this day?**

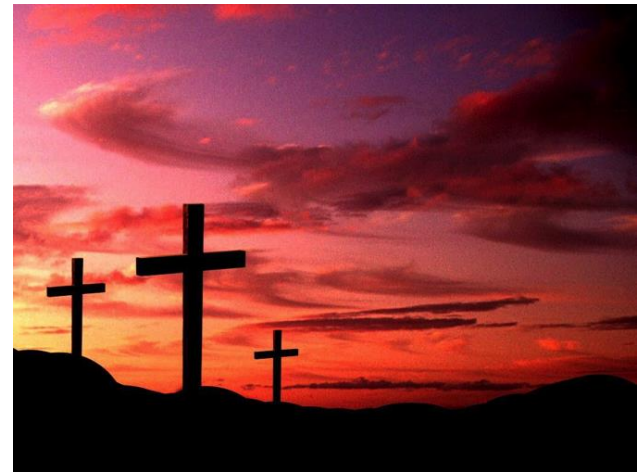


# What happened at the first Easter?

Christians believe that on Good Friday, the Romans and some of the religious leaders put Jesus to death on a cross. This was a common way of executing criminals in those days. The religious leaders were angry that he had claimed to be the Son of God. The Romans were worried that he could cause the people to rise up against their occupying rule in Israel.

Many Muslims do not agree that Jesus died on the cross. They believe that God would not let a prophet die so shamefully. Christians do not believe that it is shameful but rather that it is the greatest act of love, because on the cross Jesus took the judgment deserved by sinful human beings and brought forgiveness and a fresh start.

What do you think? Why? If people of different religions disagree on something like this, is it possible to disagree while still respecting and loving one another? How?



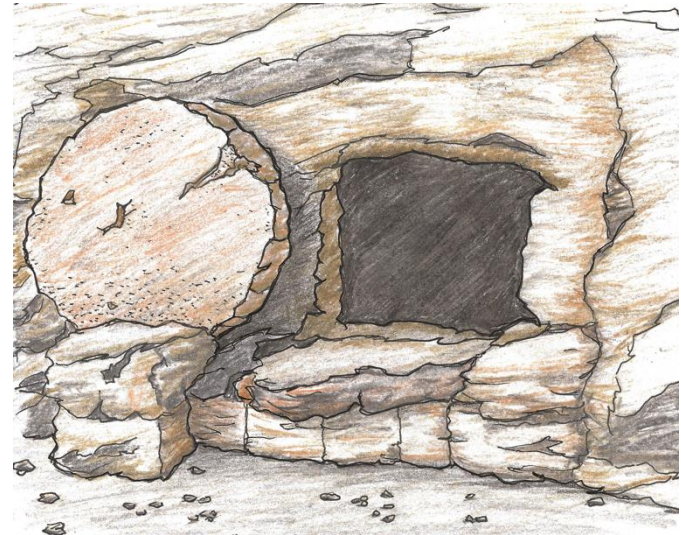


# Easter Sunday

Christians believe that on the third day after he died, Jesus rose from the dead. His tomb was guarded by Roman soldiers, and yet when his followers went to the tomb they found the big stone in front had been rolled away and the tomb was empty. At first they thought someone must have stolen Jesus' body, but then he appeared to them and showed them that he had a new, living body. Christians believe that just as Jesus rose from the dead, one day those who believe in him will rise from the dead too, in the new heavens and new earth.

**Do you think it is possible that Jesus really did rise from the dead? Why/why not?**

**Discuss in pairs**



# Love at Easter

The message of Jesus' death and resurrection is summed up in one of the most famous verses in the Bible:

“God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

**According to this verse, how does Easter show us that God loves us?**

# How Far Does **Love** Go?

COMMITMENT MEANS  
**STAYING LOYAL TO**  
WHAT YOU SAID YOU  
WERE GOING TO DO  
LONG **AFTER THE**  
**MOOD** YOU SAID IT IN  
HAS **LEFT YOU.**

Christians believe that God's **love** is not just about feeling but action. Even though the people he created have consistently rebelled against him, he kept his promise to save them through Jesus, because he loved them.

**How far should we be expected to love like that? Is there a limit to keeping promises that we make? Why/why not?**

# Easter Quiz

The following things are all traditionally associated with Easter – true or false?

- Chocolate eggs
- Christians celebrate when Jesus was born
- Easter kittens
- The beginning of a time of fasting
- Hot cross buns



# The Answers



- Chocolate eggs - TRUE
- Christians celebrate when Jesus was born - FALSE: Easter is when Christians celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection from the dead
- Easter kittens - FALSE: traditionally, bunnies or rabbits have been associated with Easter
- The beginning of a time of fasting - FALSE: Easter Sunday marks the end of Lent, which for many is a time of fasting to remember Jesus' fasting in the wilderness, as well as a time of self-reflection and confession of sin
- Hot cross buns - TRUE

# Easter Prayer

Dear God

Thank you for the love that you showed at the first Easter when Jesus willingly died for us.

Thank you that if we put our trust in him, we can know that we are forgiven and have a fresh start with you.

Help us to do that, and to live a life of love just as he loved us.

Amen