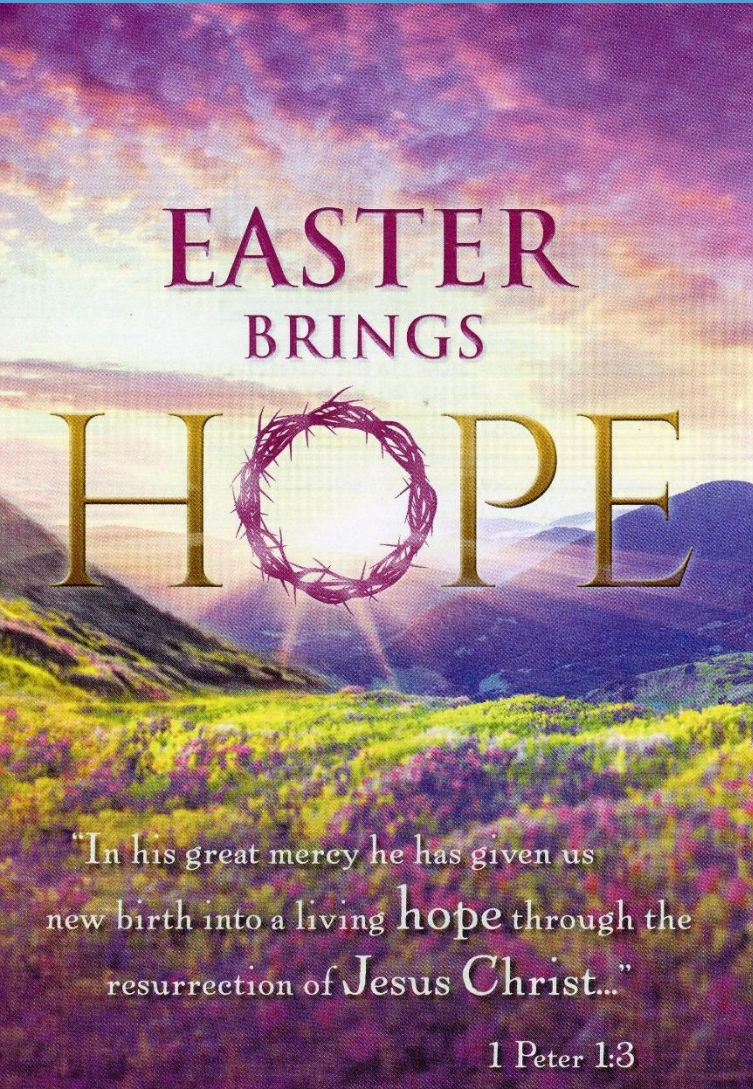




- TFCCHA APRIL 2025

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)



When is Easter? -

The date of Easter changes each year based on centuries-old calculations that determine the Christian Ecclesiastical Calendar, and this is why Easter occurs later in 2025 than in other years. The date of Easter is always the Sunday following the first full moon that occurs after the first day of spring. Thus, the date of Easter Sunday can be anytime between 22 March and 25 April.

Christian beliefs about Easter

Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ, symbolizing rebirth and renewal. It encompasses various cultural traditions, including egg decoration and festive meals across different communities

At its core, Easter is about renewal and hope, symbolizing new life and the promise of salvation. The celebration often coincides with spring, reinforcing themes of rebirth and growth..

Biblical Accounts and Significance

In the New Testament, Easter marks the resurrection of Jesus, three days after his crucifixion.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John highlight the events from his death to his rising from the dead.



THE SPIRIT OF EASTER IS ALL
ABOUT HOPE, LOVE AND JOYFUL
LIVING. I WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY
EASTER!

The Crucifixion of Jesus

Pontius Pilate could find no wrong in Jesus, yet he wanted to give the people what they wanted, and that was the death of Jesus. Pilate washed his hands in front of the crowd to symbolize that he was not taking responsibility for the bloodshed of Jesus and then handed Jesus over to be beaten and lashed. Jesus had a crown of thorns thrust on his head and made to carry his cross to the hill where he would be crucified. The location of Jesus' crucifixion is known as Calvary.

Crowds had gathered to mourn and watch Jesus' death. Jesus was nailed to the cross, and his sides were pierced by a sword. Jesus then looked to heaven and asked God to "forgive them, for they do not know what they do." When taking his last breath, Jesus spoke: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit...it is finished." Extraordinary events marked the death of Jesus. The sky was completely dark for three hours as Jesus hung on the cross. At the moment of his last breath, the earth shook, the temple curtain split from top to bottom, and the tombs of saints opened and their bodies raised from the dead.

The resurrection of Jesus

The **Resurrection** of Jesus Christ is the foundation of the Christian faith. When Jesus rose from the dead, he confirmed his identity as the Son of God and his work of atonement, redemption, reconciliation, and salvation. The Resurrection was a literal, physical raising of Jesus' body from the dead.

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

([Matthew 28:1-10](#))

EASTER EGGS – a symbol of hope

- An egg is a symbol of new life.
- For Christians, Easter eggs are used as a symbol for the resurrection of Jesus.
- Christians believe that, through his resurrection, Jesus overcame death and sin.
- This offers people the promise of eternal life if they follow his teachings.
- Nowadays, most Easter eggs are made from chocolate and covered in coloured foil.
- Traditionally though, chicken eggs would be hard boiled and then decorated by hand.
- Traditional Easter egg hunts remain popular with both Christian and non-Christian children.



Easter Messages of Hope!

- Easter is a reminder that even in our darkest hours, there is a light waiting to shine bright. Embrace that inner brilliance and let it guide your path forward.
- The blooms of spring coincide with Easter to teach us that even after the harshest winter, life finds a way. Stand strong, knowing that your winter too shall pass.
- Easter is not just about painted eggs and bunnies. It's a testament to the enduring human spirit, which, against all odds, continues to rise and shine.
- Life's challenges may seem insurmountable at times. But on this day, remember the power of resilience and faith. Like the springtime flowers, always reach for the sun.
- Our journey is filled with moments of doubt and uncertainty. But let Easter be a reminder that there's always a dawning of a new day, a chance for renewal and rebirth.
- Each day is a gift, each moment a chance. This Easter, may you be reminded to cherish every second, to live with passion, and to shine your light brightly.

Think about it: The Easter Message of hope is something that we can all benefit from.

Discuss these questions as a class:

What are you hoping for in your life?

What do you think about the Easter story of Jesu's resurrection?

What would make the world a better place to live in – what can we hope will change?

If you were the Uks Prime Minister what one thing would you change to make the UK a better place?

A prayer for reflection

Easter Prayer

The veil of darkness
Transformed to the brightest light.

The most dreadful end
Became the most beautiful beginning.

The depths of despair
Fade to reveal hope everlasting.

The curse of death
Defeated by eternal life.

Thank you Lord, for the wonder of Easter.

