

# Easter Week at Home

Simple steps for sharing faith with your children

# Celebrate at home!

While Masses have been suspended this Easter, it won't stop Catholics from celebrating with joy the festive highpoint of their Christian calendar!

Our homes are holy places. And we are the Church. Catholic parents are urged to invest their best efforts in celebrating this great day and season of Easter with their children at home.

Ideas and suggestions follow. Adapt as necessary for your unique family and household setting (and attentive to the latest Coronavirus advice).

Enjoy!

Catholic Schools Office, Broken Bay Diocese





# Easter Sunday



Decorate your home with Easter symbols: water and light, perfumed oil and white cloths. Add symbols of new life like flowers, green branches, butterflies and Easter eggs.

Read the Gospel story of the disciples discovering the empty tomb: [John 20:1-9](#) (What feelings, thoughts and questions arose as you listened to this story?)

At Easter lunch, pause a little longer to give thanks for the blessings we so often take for granted.

Around the table, share memories: 'My best Easter ever was...' Listen well!



# Easter Monday

Easter is more than a Sunday. It extends for seven weeks, concluding with Pentecost. During this time, we continue to ponder the meaning of Jesus' resurrection for our lives.

Easter is a special time of the year for baptisms.

Share baptism memories as a family. Tell stories, watch home videos, revisit photos.

Water and light are powerful symbols of baptism.

Gather with your children at your sacred space, place a bowl of water and re-light their baptism candles. Give thanks for the gift of your faith community. 'One thing I love about being Catholic is....'





# Easter Tuesday

St Augustine said: "We are the Easter people, and Alleluia is our song."

Learn the meaning of the word: *Alleluia!* ('Praise God!')

Make this joyful word part of 'grace' at meals during the Easter season. Extra points for singing it! Count your blessings, and respond with 'Alleluia!' to each.

Today, check on an elderly neighbour who may have little social support.





# Easter Wednesday

Read the Gospel story of the two disciples walking the road to Emmaus: [Luke 24:13-35](#). To their amazement, they meet the risen Jesus!

What feelings, thoughts, questions arise as you listen to this [story](#)? Chat together, share insights.

Share stories of journeys which have changed your life. Where did you go? What happened? Who did you meet? How did you come away different?





# Easter Thursday



- Read the Gospel story of Jesus appearing to his disciples, showing them his hands and feet, and saying ‘Peace be with you!’: [Luke 24:35-48](#)
- What feelings, thoughts, questions arise as you listen to this story? Chat together, share insights.
- In how many languages can you say the word ‘peace’? Pray together for the gift of Christ’s peace, in our hearts, homes, [and in our world](#).
- If tensions arise at home today, be a peacemaker.



# Easter Friday

"Come and have breakfast," says the risen Jesus in John's Gospel as he builds a charcoal fire, cooks a fish breakfast on the beach for his disciples, and breaks bread with them ([John 21:1-14](#)).

Once again, a meal becomes a powerful occasion for love, forgiveness and transformation.

Rise extra early today to see the sunrise and to share breakfast as a family. What creative touches can you bring to your Easter breaky table?





# Easter Saturday



Make the most of sunny skies before winter sets in. Get outdoors as a family and walk, run, play, fish or picnic together.

If the weather turns sour, try board games, cards or puzzles indoors.

As you enjoy the day, share a gratitude moment: 'I am grateful for...' Close your sharing with a '[Glory Be](#)':

*'Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.'*



# Final thoughts

Remember:

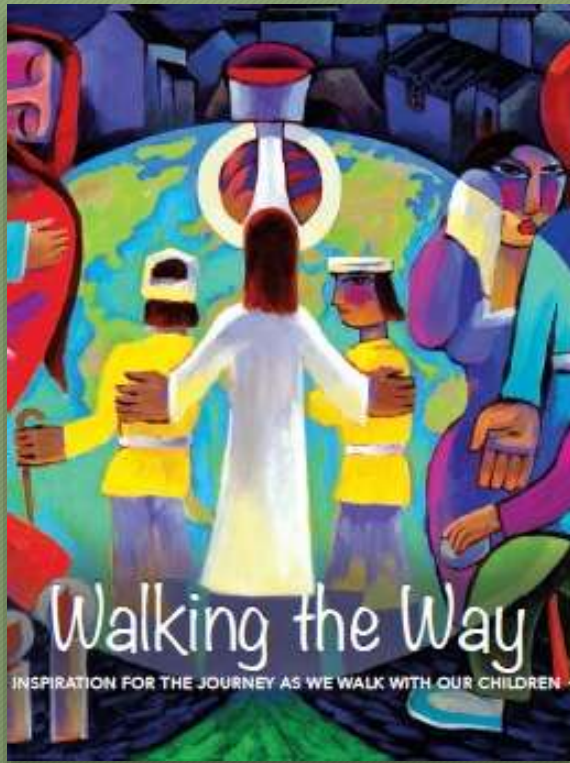
- We are the Church.
- Our home is a holy place.
- Our table is a sacred gathering place.
- Our family Bible is the word of God.
- Our speech and actions shape the ‘domestic church’.
- And, as parent, I am the first teacher of my child.

‘The Lord’s presence dwells in real and concrete families, with all their daily troubles and struggles, joys and hopes.’  
(Pope Francis)





# Walking the Way



The ideas within are from the “Walking the Way” parent formation initiative in Broken Bay schools. Resources for parents include a book, a website, a weekly e-Bulletin and (in usual times) parent reflection mornings and retreat days.

For further information, visit:

<http://walkingtheway.dbbcso.org/>



# Further links

- [The Messy Parenting Project](#)
- [Cathfamily](#)
- [Young Catholic Mums](#)
- [Catholic Mom](#)
- [The Daily Awareness Examen](#) (reflecting on the day)
- [Marriage Resource Centre](#)
- [Good Grief](#) (support in times of loss and change)
- [Fatherhood resources](#)
- [Pray at Home](#)
- Note: The Broken Bay [Children's Sacramental Program](#) is purpose-built for home-learning. If you have a copy at home, you may like to explore it for faith-sharing ideas.