

CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST THOMAS MORE & ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, WEST MALLING

EASTER PRAYER SHEET (YEAR A)

(A) LIVING THE EASTER DAYS

The 40 Days of Easter are as important as the 40 Days of Lent as they help us to make the new life we have been given through this Lent, Holy Week and Easter real in our lives. In these Easter Days the Risen Lord walks closely with us, as he did with the Apostles after the first Easter, to help us, with continued prayer and love, to build his new life and resurrection in our lives. This Prayer Sheet is offered as a help for us to do this as individuals and as families.

(B) THE EASTER CANDLE

The idea is for each Home in the Parish to have its own "Easter Candle" which will be blessed and lit from the Easter Candle in Church at Mass on Easter Sunday (or on a subsequent date if you were unable to get a candle or be at Mass here at Easter). The Easter Candle is the symbol of the Risen Lord's special presence among us in the 40 days of Easter both in Church and at Home. It should be lit daily and become a focal point for prayer at home as it will be lit daily in the Church

(C) A FORM OF SERVICE FOR THE HOME (for families and individuals)

1. Light the candle saying:- 'MAY THE EASTER LIGHT OF JESUS BE WITH US HERE TODAY'
2. Read through or sing one of the Hymns and Songs overleaf.
3. Read the Theme and Prayer for the week below.
4. Bring your day and yourself to the Risen Jesus – the day that is past and the day that is coming – thank him for the good things and ask his help where you need it (the children can say prayers here).
5. Pray for anyone or anything that needs help.
6. Read the 'Covenant Prayer' overleaf (F).
7. Prayer (together): DEAR LORD, THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US IN THESE EASTER DAYS. HELP US TO KEEP CLOSE TO YOU UNTIL WE PRAY AGAIN, AMEN.
8. Read or sing one of the prayers and songs overleaf.

(D) THEMES AND PRAYERS FOR EACH WEEK

Easter Week The first Easter morning where Mary of Magdalen met Jesus outside the tomb "I am Risen and am with you"

LORD, THIS IS THE GREAT EASTER WEEK OF YOUR RISING. HELP US TO BE HAPPY WITH YOU AND TO GIVE THIS HAPPINESS TO OTHERS. AMEN.

Week 2 The story of Thomas who doubted the Resurrection but who then believed – "Blessed are you who believe in Me".

LORD, HELP US TO MAKE OUR BELIEF IN YOUR RESURRECTION STRONGER DURING THE WEEK AND TO KEEP CLOSE TO YOU. AMEN.

Week 3 The story of "Emmaus" where Jesus shared bread with the disciples and helped them to see that He has risen – "They knew him in the breaking of bread".

LORD, HELP US TO MEET YOU THIS WEEK IN THE BREAKING OF BREAD – THE BREAKING OF BREAD AT MASS AND THE BREAKING OF BREAD WHEN WE PRAY. AMEN.

Week 4 Jesus as the Good Shepherd – "I have come to give you life".

LORD, HELP US TO MAKE OUR FAITH AND LOVE FOR YOU AS OUR GOOD SHEPHERD STRONGER DURING THIS WEEK, SO THAT YOU CAN GUIDE AND LEAD US. AMEN.

Week 5 Jesus tells us he is the Way, the Truth and the Life – "Trust in Me".

LORD, HELP US TO DEEPEN OUR TRUST IN YOU AS OUR WAY, OUR TRUTH, AND OUR LIFE, DURING THIS WEEK. AMEN.

Week 6 Jesus prepares us for the Ascension where he will go to Heaven to send the Holy Spirit to us again – "I shall ask the Father to send you the Spirit of Truth.

LORD, WE THANK YOU FOR THESE EASTER DAYS WHEN YOU HAVE WALKED SO CLOSELY WITH US. HELP US TO PREPARE TO REJOICE AT THE ASCENSION, AND GET READY FOR THE NEW GIFT OF YOUR SPIRIT. AMEN.

(E) THE EASTER SONGS

(1) LORD OF THE DANCE

1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun. And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun. And I came down from Heaven and I danced on the earth. At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance then, wherever you may be I am the Lord of the dance, said He,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be and I'll lead you all in the dance, said He.

2. I danced for the scribe and the Pharisees, but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow Me. I danced for the fishermen for James and John. They came with Me and the dance went on.

3. I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame. The holy people they said it was a shame. They whipped and they stripped and they hung Me on high, and they left me there on a cross to die.

4. I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black. It's hard to dance with the devil on your back. They buried my body and they thought I'd gone, but I am the dance and I still go on.

5. They cut Me down and I leapt up high. I am the life that'll never, never die. I'll live in you if you'll live in me. I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.

(2) ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE

One, two, three, four, five – our friend Jesus is alive.
Six, seven, eight, nine, ten – yes He has come back again.

(3) ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, GIVE THANKS TO THE RISEN LORD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, GIVE THANKS TO THE RISEN LORD
ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, GIVE PRAISE TO HIS NAME.

1. Jesus is Lord of all earth. He is the King of creation
2. Come, let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Saviour

(4) SING ALLELUIA

1. Sing Alleluia, Sing Alleluia, Sing Alleluia, You are my Lord.
2. Jesus is risen, Jesus is risen, Jesus is risen, He is my Lord.

(5) THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

The light of Christ has come into the world.
The light of Christ has come into the world.

(6) EASTER SONG TO OUR LADY – the 'Regina Caeli'

Joy fill your heart, O Queen most high, Alleluia!
Your Son who in the tomb did lie, Alleluia!
Has risen as he did prophesy, Alleluia!
Pray for us to our God on high Alleluia!
Alleluia!, Alleluia!, Alleluia!

(F) COVENANT PRAYER

Jesus, our Risen Lord and King, we gather in your presence, in these Easter Days, as one people, one family, and one body, young and old. We bring you the journey we have made in Prayer and Love through Lent and Holy Week to this Easter. We ask you to help us to continue to use this to walk with you in these Easter Days and build our new life, with faith and love, patience and wisdom and enthusiasm and hope and make your resurrection real in our lives for ourselves and others. Amen.