



Planning for Easter with young people and families in your Parish

This resource has been developed by Christina Baillie, Diocesan Youth Officer. If you have any questions about the resource or ideas included here, you can contact Christina on christinabaillie@connordiocese.org. Links to resources are embedded in this document. Please click on the underlined text to access the resources.

Ideas to be used in Services

[The Bible Society](#) has some Easter resources including videos which can be included in church services. The Easter Spoken Word could be a helpful video to connect with young people.

[Messy Church](#) have a range of resources for Easter. These could be used to do an online Zoom Messy Church or there are some ideas which could be used for a Children's address or All Age Talk.

Youth Ministry

Escape Rooms have been a great way to provide some fun and focus for a Zoom Youth Group meet up. Several groups in the Diocese have used Escape Rooms by [Church Youth Ministry](#) and they have an Easter themed Escape Room coming soon. If you would be interested in running this for your group, Christina is happy to facilitate this online.

Here is a great [video considering why we eat Easter Eggs](#). It would be easy to share with young people and you could follow up by discussing the questions included in the video.

[The Real Easter Egg](#) could be something to gift to the young people in your Parish to assure them that you continue to care and think of them.

Easter in a Box: for your young people, you could put together a box with a few things to help them process and reflect on the Easter events. Why not encourage them to read slowly through Luke 23 & 24. You could include a variety of items in the box like:

A handheld cross (alternatively making one out of sticks and string)

Material - either to connect with the curtain ripping or the linen Jesus' body was wrapped in
Stone - for Jesus' tomb

Spices/Perfume - as the women came to prepare the body

Bread - the moment of clarity for those he accompanied on the road, highlighting a physical resurrected body



Treats - to emphasise the victory!

You could record a short video discussing the different items or get together on Zoom on Easter Sunday to discuss how they found reading and reflecting.

There is a [guide](#) for doing something similar with children over Holy Week and Easter.

Care Home Connections: ask your local care home for the first name of all their residents. Along with your young people, share out the names and write a postcard to each individual.

Encourage your young people to pray for those people and write an encouragement about Easter on their postcards. You can get well priced postcards from [10 of those](#).

Gloucester Diocese developed an [Easter Resource with 9 Prayer Stations](#). This resource, entitled, Journey with Jesus is a series of prayer stations, based around the Passion narrative given in Mark's Gospel. You could facilitate some of these in an online youth group and give some time and direction for young people to do others in their home.

Urban Saints Ireland are running their Easter camps for young people online. They are free to attend and you don't need a previous connection to take part. More information and sign ups are available for each camp here: [Boys Easter House Party Online](#) and [Girls Easter House Party Online](#)

Book Resources

Here are some books / resources which you could purchase to distribute across your Parish or encourage families to buy to share over Easter.

[Are we nearly there yet?](#) - this book would be suitable for toddlers or young children

[The Day the Earth Shook](#) - this book would be suitable for children

[The Case for Easter](#) - this book could be helpful for older young people

[The Wonder of Easter](#) - this devotional works through Lent and up to Easter. Unlike most family devotionals it includes young people which allows the resource to suit all your families with children.

[The Garden, the Curtain and the Cross](#) - this book would be suitable for children.



Events / Community Engagement

Easter Trail - why not set up a trail for young people and families to follow? You could get your young people involved in planning and setting this up.

One way to do this would be to hide pictures of eggs around your community. On the back you could use QR codes to share additional information. QR codes can link to a web page or YouTube video so you can share a different part of the Easter story. [QR Code Monkey](#) is one website which can help you produce personalised QR codes for free.

You could use [What 3 Words](#) to create a list of locations where the eggs can be found, and then distribute this to your Parish. Why not have a prize for the first individual/family to take a picture of themselves with each egg? If you are interested in this idea, [Together At Home](#) has created one which you can use or adapt.

Window Displays - Ask all the members of your Parish to take part in putting up a window display for Easter. You could give people a theme or a short phrase to feature. As many people will still be walking regularly in their local communities, this can be an encouragement to members, an opportunity for families to find as many as possible and a witness to those in the community.

Lisburn Cathedral invited several families to do Christmas themed window displays which members could then book in to visit. Why not chat with Rev Danielle McCullagh for more information about how effective this was and how you could adapt the idea for Easter?





Children's Resources

Jill Hamilton, our Diocesan Children's Project Development Officer, has a range of great Easter resources on [the Ripple website](#). There are a range of ideas which could be used to convey the Easter story to children as well as other quality resources.

The Children's Ministry Network has produced a [Lent & Easter newsletter](#) which has some ideas to use for devotions, services and community engagement.

Music

Through the Engage Connor Youth YouTube Channel, we have collated an [Easter Playlist](#) which includes some contemporary worship songs which relate to Easter.