

FEATURE

Resurrection life

FAITH TALK

A time for family

MY STORY

Living with
freedom and
hope

Easter

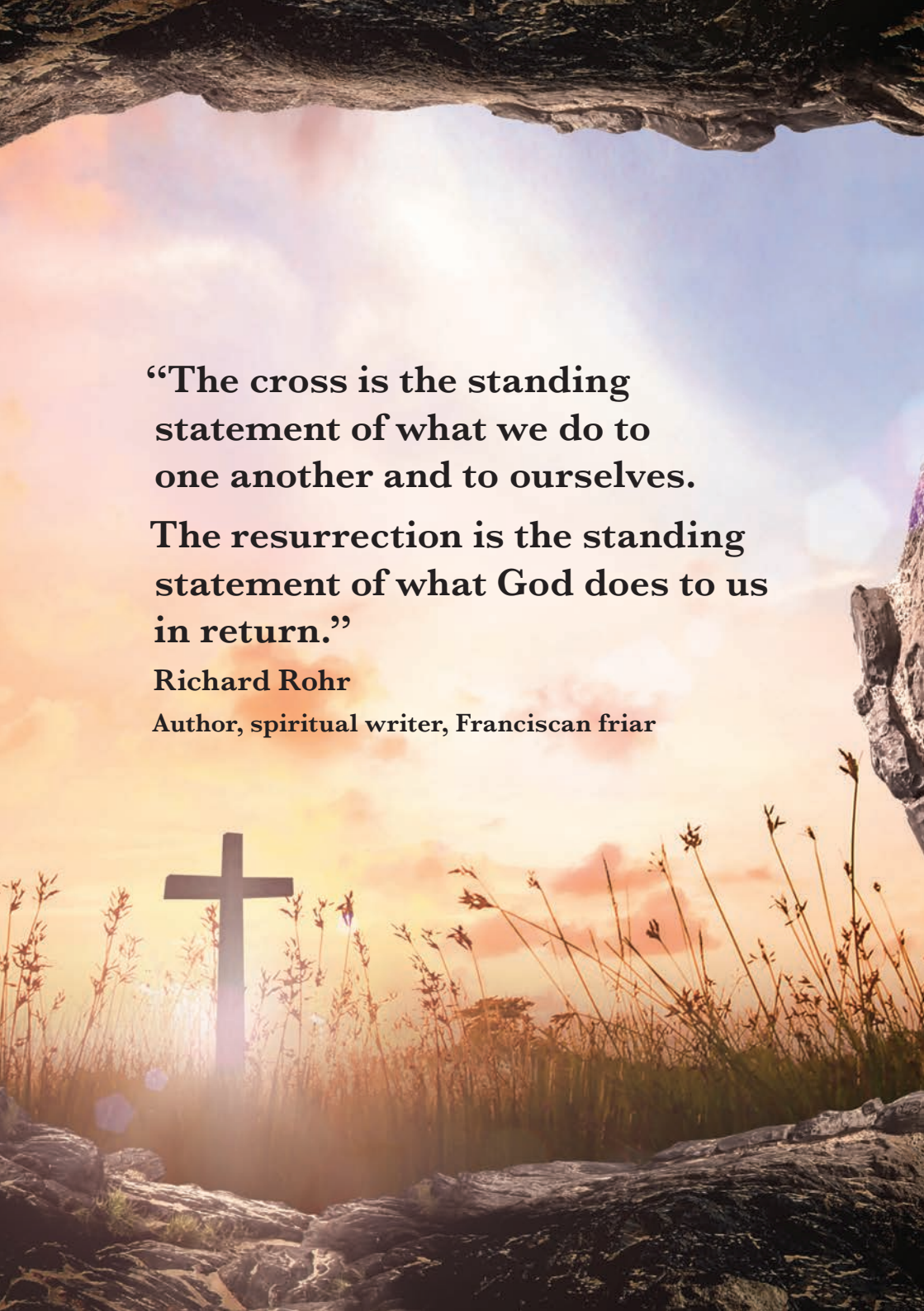
Restoring the broken



SALVOS

MAGAZINE



A photograph of a simple wooden cross standing in a field of tall grasses. The scene is set at sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden light filling the sky. The cross is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the frame. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, creating a lens flare effect. The foreground consists of dark, rocky ground with some sparse vegetation. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

**“The cross is the standing
statement of what we do to
one another and to ourselves.**

**The resurrection is the standing
statement of what God does to us
in return.”**

Richard Rohr

Author, spiritual writer, Franciscan friar



The Salvation Army is about giving hope where it's needed most.

What is The Salvation Army?

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church.

Vision Statement

Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live, love and fight alongside others to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus.

Mission Statement

The Salvation Army is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus by:

- Caring for people
- Creating faith pathways
- Building healthy communities
- Working for justice

Salvos Magazine

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Press date 15 March 2021

Printed and published for The Salvation Army by Commissioner Robert Donaldson at Focus Print Group, Rowville, Victoria

Some photos in this magazine were taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.



salvosmagazine.org.au



Hope and healing

It can be hard to have hope, and experience any joy, when we're facing major global or personal upheavals – or even the daily grind of life with its everyday stresses and challenges.

Jesus knows this. He understands human frailty and need and, as our main feature this week discusses, he came to earth, lived and died for us, and today continues his work of restoration and healing in our lives.

In his article on the 'resurrection life', the world leader of The Salvation Army, General Brian Peddle, also talks about the hope of the Easter season, reminding us that God is with us in every circumstance and specialises in the miraculous and impossible.

As an illustration, chef Jayden shares the personal miracles that happened in his life to transform his battle with addiction and fear into a future of freedom and hope. Becoming part of God's family is another miracle that Faye writes about in Faith Talk – something to consider as we enjoy this season with our own family and friends.

If you'd like to celebrate Easter with the Salvos, see our back cover for details.

Simone Worthing **Assistant Editor**

Contemplating the meaning of hope

Easter a time to consider the future restoration of broken things

WORDS SIMON SMART

A few years ago, a friend of mine died suddenly of a heart attack. He was 54 years old with a wife and two young kids. It would be hard to convey how unexpected this was. He was as fit as anyone I know and had been that way for as long as I'd known him. He'd just finished a Saturday morning exercise session with friends when he collapsed. An ambulance was called, but it was too late. He never regained consciousness.

What are we to make of such jolting and confronting losses? How do we make sense of our existence and our lives that, despite all our striving, our dreams, our anxieties and small triumphs, all end in the same place? How do we avoid despair when we ponder the ultimate fate of everything and everyone?

DECLINE IN HOPE

There was a time in the West when most people would locate life's joys and tragedies within the grand story of an infinite God. But, after initially moving away from a sense of the transcendent God as the foundation of all things, a further shift in the late 20th century saw the flourishing life come to be defined as merely the experiences of the individual. With this contraction, believes Yale theologian Miroslav Volf, has come a corresponding decline in hope.

The contemporary responses to this lack are many and varied – but they all represent a way to try to deal with the reality of the human problem – the need for meaning and purpose, for my life to matter and to be able to hang



Hope in Jesus means that, whatever happens today, it's not the end of the story.



The creator of the universe has broken into our reality – God is with us.

on to hope. Having lost ‘eternity’, some will search for hope in consumerism or positive thinking, or ‘strength within’, or perhaps by adopting a ‘you only live once’ approach and try to squeeze every last drop out of experience from life before it’s all taken away.

For others, the ‘brave, ethical life’ is enough. Jane Caro, my co-author of the book *For God’s Sake*, wrote of almost losing her baby daughter to a virus. A counsellor told her, “Terrible things can happen ... they can happen to anyone. There’s nothing special about you and nothing special about [your daughter]. Danger is reality, safety is illusion.” She writes that for her, coming to accept that “we are all children of an indifferent (but not malevolent) universe”, was a crucial step in shredding her anxiety about the world.

Film director Woody Allen’s take on a godless universe, expressed in an interview a few years ago, is that because everything ends in destruction, there is nothing that has any real significance at all. In light of this terrible reality of meaninglessness, the job of the

artist, he says, is to help people understand why it’s still worth going on. He concedes this is a “tough assignment”.

GOD BREAKS IN

Some may think it an equally tough assignment, but the hope of Christianity centres on an admittedly outrageous story – that the creator of the universe has, from the outside, broken into our reality.

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**The creator of the universe
has, from the outside,
broken into our reality.**

”

Over the Easter weekend, as many Australians head to the coast or to sodden camping sites in search of rest, millions will still gather around the ►



PHOTO BY JON TYSON ON UNSPLASH

The hope of Jesus can be an integral part of our daily lives.

world to remember an ancient story of a Jewish rabbi brutally executed by the Romans, holding on to the hope that it is the light of resurrection on Sunday, following the darkness of Good Friday, that provides the reason to hope in God's solution to the world we find ourselves in.

Those who have come to believe this story to be true, understand it to be about a hope that has invaded the present, such that we don't give way to despair. It's about the future restoration of broken things, of death and evil being conquered, justice and order emerging from chaos. It says that every life is of eternal significance.

At my mate's funeral, overflowing with mourners from a wide spectrum of the community, the thing that was unmissable was not only the

expected and appropriate sense of anguish, tragedy and loss, but, somehow, a tangible sense of hopefulness within that sadness. That hope was, for this family, based entirely on the Easter story of Jesus rising from the tomb on the third day – a story that whispered to that little boy and girl as they followed the casket of their dad down the aisle of the church, that “this is not the end of the story”.

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**Every life is of
eternal significance.**

”

Is this merely a fantasy that we tell ourselves as a comfort in the face of life's sorrow? To tell this story, says American writer Frederick Buechner, is to tell of the “meeting of darkness and light and the final victory of light”.

On Easter Sunday morning, many will still rise and meet the day with a sense that what they go to celebrate at their local church, as unfashionable and almost forgotten as it is, makes every bit of difference to life today and into the future.

*Simon Smart is Executive Director of the
Centre for Public Christianity*

publicchristianity.org/this-easter-lets-contemplate-the-meaning-of-hope/



Scan here for more
on finding meaning.

Inclusive play space opens in Port Stephens

The Salvation Army has opened a sensory garden and inclusive play space on its church site in Port Stephens, NSW.

Church leaders Howard and Sandra Koutnik, said the vision for the project came about after they found themselves assisting several families with members who had special needs. They quickly discovered that there weren't many places that they could take their family members with special needs that were safe or inclusive.

In 2019, through a Salvation Army grant to fund innovative mission and ministry ideas, the dream of creating a safe and inclusive space for people of all abilities seemed more achievable.



PHOTO HENK TOBBE
The opening of the Port Stephens Salvation Army Sensory Garden and Inclusive Play Space.

The church was able to clear space in a paddock at the back of its bush property, install water tanks, purchase vegetable garden beds and establish the groundworks for the garden. Additional funds were needed, however, to complete the project.

Offering to help, a group of local Rotarians met Howard and Sandra at the Hope Centre site and fell in love with the concept of the sensory garden and inclusive play space. A Rotary grant application to Port Stephens Council

was successful and, with several members and supporters, along with other local Salvos, pitching in, the space was completed.



PHOTO HENK TOBBE
The new garden is a place of welcoming and acceptance for all.

The result is a beautiful, tranquil garden, fully wheelchair accessible, with places to sit and contemplate, vegetable and plant beds to tend, and artworks to interact with.

The upper area of the space is dedicated to play and mobility equipment that people of all ages and abilities can enjoy, as well as a covered area with tables and chairs for get-togethers, meals and other group activities.

At the conclusion of the launch last month, Sandra shared a prayer for the space. She said, "May this garden be a hive of productivity and creativity. May this garden be a haven for relaxation and rest. May this garden be a home where all find welcome and acceptance. I pray the blessing of God's peace and hope over this garden, and on all who enter."
– Lauren Martin



Scan here for more on the need for community.

Resurrection life

An everyday experience of the love and power of God

WORDS GENERAL BRIAN PEDDLE

The Easter story resonates with life and hope, and how we desperately need these in our world today.

Through the years of the Old Testament, we clung to the hope in the prophesies of a Messiah. Through the silence of the years between the Old and New testaments, we clung to the hope that God had not forgotten his people or his promises. Then that hope took on flesh and blood in the person of Jesus, and we witnessed for ourselves that God had remembered the cries of his people, confirming that our hope was not in vain.

We witness a Jesus who taught and modelled forgiveness and love, who partied with tax collectors, dined with sinners, spoke to prostituted women, condemning no one. We see for ourselves a glorious mixture of grace and truth. We are caught in awe and wonder as Jesus turned water into wine, gave sight to the blind, made the lame walk, cast out demons, healed the leper, controlled the wind and waves, and we see for ourselves the inexhaustible power of God.

On Good Friday, it appeared as though hope had gone as the life flowed out of Jesus' body. This irresistible man of captivating parables, insightful teaching and miracles, with the ability to impact the very fabric of society and people to the utmost depths of their being, was killed on a cross and placed in a tomb. It looked and felt like someone had turned out the light and put a lid on our hope. Then something truly remarkable,

life-transforming and world-changing happened: the stone was rolled away, the graveclothes left in a pile – because Jesus was alive! The light was more glorious than ever, and our hope found new heights.

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God specialises in the miraculous and the impossible.

”

Easter is not simply a remembrance of something that happened in the past – but as we celebrate it, we remind ourselves that the resurrection life is to be an everyday experience. The pandemic we are experiencing makes it feel, at times, similar to Good Friday – as though the light has been turned off and a lid put on our hope. There are many circumstances in life that may cause us to feel like that – natural disasters, illness, unemployment, divorce, drug addiction, bankruptcy, domestic violence, racism. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ remind us that God is with us in every circumstance, that he is bigger and more powerful than any circumstance, and that God specialises in the miraculous and the impossible.

When we have given up on ourselves, God still believes in us. When we feel like we are unloved, God shows us Jesus. When we feel



like we have made the biggest mistake of our lives, Jesus provides forgiveness. When we are suffocating in the darkness, God shines the light of his presence. When we are despairing, Jesus provides hope.

You see, this resurrection life is a full, abundant, complete and whole life. This resurrection life is a new life, because it is life in Christ and, as such, is free from condemnation. This resurrection life starts the minute we accept Christ as Saviour and continues for all eternity. This resurrection life is dynamic, because the power of God is unleashed in us. The change starts on the inside and transforms how we view everything.

On that first Easter morning, the disciples were still experiencing Roman occupation and all that came with it, but the realisation that Jesus was alive and that every promise had been fulfilled, changed everything. They now had an eternal view, they understood that

sin and death had been conquered, that the Kingdom was indeed a spiritual Kingdom and that God reigned supreme over everything. Such understanding would change how they viewed and responded to life in this world because the glorious light of Christ shone in their lives and the hope of eternity was secured. They would never be the same again – just as we will never be the same again if we claim that same resurrection power.

May God bless you as you celebrate the risen Christ. Amen.

General Brian Peddle is the leader of the International Salvation Army



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

A time for family

Understanding God's love for humankind

WORDS FAYE MICHELSON

For me, Easter time is all about family. For a start, the extra days of leave on either side of the weekend create an ideal opportunity for families to snatch a mini-break during the warm, settled autumn weather. Beach, bush, rivers – camping spots and holiday destinations are booked out months in advance and our collective desire to grasp happy experiences will surely be intensified this post-COVID-lockdown Easter.

But, whether you're fortunate enough to have a holiday or whether you're staying home, there's plenty of Easter-themed fun to enjoy. Who hasn't got up early to hide numerous chocolate eggs and rabbits around their backyard or camping ground? I have. And who hasn't sprinkled flour over the family-room floorboards to try to create Easter bunny pawprints? I have, unfortunately. What a mess!

Does your Easter tradition include the extended family gathering for long, leisurely meals? Fish on Good Friday, lamb on Easter Sunday and a valuable time to reconnect with relatives who may only gather together a few times a year. And perhaps, squeezed in among all this delightful activity, visits to church on Friday and Sunday to hear about Jesus dying on the cross and rising again on the third day.

Yes, Easter is all about family – the family of God. Family is at the heart of why Jesus died on the cross on Good Friday and came back to life on Sunday.





It's a hard concept to grasp, this divine love Jesus and God had for humankind. It was a love so deep it resulted in death. One of the most well-known verses in the Bible, John chapter 3, verse 16, explains it like this: "For God loved the world so much that he gave his only son, so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

God loved us so much that he gave his beloved son to die so that we could have everlasting life with him? And his son agreed?

It's a foreign idea for us, centuries away from the ancient biblical ritual of God's people offering sacrifices to make themselves acceptable to him. These sacrifices symbolised the eradication of their sin so that they could continue to have a relationship with the holy God. When Jesus took on the weight of humanity's collective sin to be the sacrifice, he became the means back to God for those who believed in him and understood what he had done. And God, who wanted to restore our broken relationship with him, allowed his only son to take on humanity's sin.

When Jesus rose on Easter Sunday, a new era rose with him for those who knew him as their Lord. Because Jesus died on that Friday and came back to life, we can belong to the family of God. We can know his love, we can call him our father, we can become his sons and daughters.

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God" (1 John chapter 3, verse 1). Easter is a time for family. God's family.



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

Shining the light to help others find the way

Jayden overcomes addiction and lives with freedom and hope

WORDS NAOMI SINGLEHURST

Just a few years ago, Jayden was struggling with addiction and fear. But, with a growing faith and the support of the Salvos, he has seen his life transformed and is now passionately committed to helping others.

As a child, and in his early teens, Jayden had been relentlessly bullied at school. He dropped out in Year 9 to become an apprentice chef. Later, after a devastating relationship break-up, he was encouraged by a close friend to try the drug ice. And at first "it seemed to take away the pain".

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**Connection is the
opposite of addiction**

”

But Jayden became addicted very quickly.

"There were a few rock-bottom moments," Jayden shares. "Just before [one] Christmas, I knew my son was being born, but I wasn't allowed to see him. I threatened to kill people in the hospital. I hated the person I'd become.

"People were chasing me and, if I didn't get them the money, I was going to be killed. I called my dad ... and he gave me the money,

but the condition was I had to go to rehab."

Jayden entered The Salvation Army Brisbane Recovery Services, known as Moonyah, at the age of 21, but was asked to leave for aggressive behaviour.

It was during this darkest time, Jayden says, that God began to work in his life.

"When I was around 11 years old, I'd had a vivid dream of a very distinctive house," he shares. "When I got kicked out of rehab the first time, I went to a new area to use drugs with someone I knew. As I walked into their house, in a town I'd never been to, it was exactly like my dream 10 years earlier."

During that time, Jayden also prayed his first prayer.

"I knew they had no room in rehab, and I had no money to pay entry, either. But my prayer was if that was where I was meant to be, I'd get a place, and I did," he says.

A DIVINE ENCOUNTER

Off the drugs, but still struggling with many issues, Jayden then had an encounter that changed his life.

"One night, I looked up out of my window ... and I saw a bright, white light coming towards me," he says. "Then it gently kissed



Jayden now has hope, freedom and purpose in his life.

my face. Then, just as suddenly, it was gone, and I fell asleep feeling truly safe and secure for the first time in a very long time.

"I completed the program, and I gained a determination and confidence that I'd never had before."

Jayden went on to complete every extra course offered at Moonyah, and accepted invitations to church, men's camps and more. He also ran a cooking course at Moonyah and then became the centre's chef.

SECOND CHANCES

Jayden now shares custody of his child and last year he launched his own catering business. His business also features a cookery

program for schools, youth detention and addiction recovery services.

Jayden also volunteers in recovery outreach, one-on-one mentoring and is involved in supporting others through his local church. "I'm convinced connection is the opposite of addiction," he says.

With many strong mentors behind him, Jayden has also undertaken extensive counselling to work on his own issues of healing and identity. "I now understand that to gain freedom, we often have to face the things we fear the most," he says. "To go through what I have gone through and now to be able to reach the people God has put aside for me to reach – that is incredible.

"I know there is hope for everyone. When I had that dream, and saw that house, I was still using [drugs], but God met me there. There is no point [where] we have so ruined our lives that God can't pick us back up again."

CONVINCED OF GOD'S HAND

Jayden says he is certain the light of God's love – made available through Jesus' death and resurrection – was shining in his life, even in his darkest times. He just had to stop running and acknowledge it.

"I've experienced a lot in my life already, and the one thing I am absolutely sure of is that God transforms lives," he says. "And that transforming light and love of God, through his son Jesus, is the miracle, the hope and the message of Easter and beyond."



Scan here for more on addiction.

Hot cross muffins Have a laugh



PHOTO BY ANDREA REDFORD

Ingredients

Muffins: 1 cup currants, 1 cup dried cranberries, 2½ cups self-raising flour, ½ tsp bi-carb soda, ½ tsp nutmeg, 2 tsp cinnamon, ½ cup vegetable oil, 1 cup buttermilk, 2 eggs, 175g caster sugar, ½ cup choc chips.

Glaze and icing: 2 tbsp caster sugar, 80g icing sugar, 1 tsp lemon juice.

Method

Place the dried fruit in a bowl and cover with boiling water. Let stand for 10 minutes, then drain well and pat dry.

In a large mixing bowl, sift flour, bi-carb and spices. In a separate bowl, whisk oil, buttermilk, eggs and sugar together.

Add wet mixture to the dry ingredients and stir to combine. Mix in the fruit and choc chips. Divide among 12 muffin cases and bake for 15 minutes at 180°C until golden brown.

Glaze: Simmer caster sugar and 2tbs hot water over low heat and stir until sugar dissolves. Brush the glaze over the cooled muffins.

Icing: Sift icing sugar. Add lemon juice and just enough hot water to make a thick icing. Ice a cross shape on each muffin.



What kind of jewellery do rabbits wear?

14 carrot gold.



What is the Easter Bunny's favourite kind of music?

Hip-hop



What do you call a rabbit with fleas?

Bugs Bunny!

Bible byte

"He [Jesus] is not here: for he is risen, as he said."

King James version

Wordsearch

Q J S E F S H L S F S C X J Y
 L Y K U I A O F J R S T A I N
 E Z Z J N V M C R I O B I O V
 M L R N E D T I J D R B I S F
 E J E S U S A O L A C T D N O
 G R K G G N Y Y U Y C T D O R
 X B U T D G W F T E E E E I G
 K E X T M Z E N R L V K T T I
 S N W B U I M R C B R S E A V
 E P O H T F U A O E D A R R E
 T C O O Q S R U O W A B N B N
 F G M I E I R I S E N S I E E
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|--------------|-------------|
| EASTER | CHOCOLATE |
| FORGIVENESS | EGGS |
| LOVE | BASKET |
| HOPE | MIRACLE |
| FUTURE | RISEN |
| CROSS | SUNDAY |
| RESURRECTION | FRIDAY |
| JESUS | TOMB |
| FAMILY | SACRIFICE |
| ETERNITY | CELEBRATION |
| JOY | HOLIDAY |

Quick quiz



1. Easter is held on the first Sunday after what kind of moon in March each year?
2. What do we call the day on which Jesus was crucified?
3. Approximately 76 per cent of people eat which part of a chocolate Easter Bunny first?
4. How many hot cross buns would you find in a baker's dozen?
5. What does the Easter holiday celebrate?

Tum-Tum



On which page of this week's *Salvos Magazine* is Tum-Tum hiding?

Answers: 1. A full moon 2. Good Friday. 3. The ears. 4. 13
 5. The resurrection of Jesus.
Tum-Tum: is hiding amongst the muffins on page 14.

Did you know?

- Only 18 out of one million Lego pieces are defective.
- Leonardo da Vinci invented the scissors.
- Sharks are immune to almost all known diseases.

You're invited
to celebrate

Easter

with the Salvos!



For more information

Contact us on 13 SALVOS (13 72 58) or visit salvationarmy.org.au/our-faith/easter

Easter is a weekend of celebration when people all over the world reflect on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Salvation Army churches gather twice during this time, on Good Friday (2 April) and Easter Sunday (4 April) - and you're invited to join us. Some churches will also be making online options available - check local sites for details.

It's an opportunity to discover more about the true meaning of Easter with its message of hope through the resurrection of Jesus.

If you haven't experienced our churches in action, you probably don't know what to expect. Usually there is joyous music, a short message of hope and a welcoming environment where you'll feel comfortable and included.

Each Salvo church is different but two things are always the same - our doors are open to everyone and we're ready to give you a warm welcome. If you've got questions about faith, if you want to explore Christianity, or if you'd just like to connect with other people in your community, then our churches are places that can help.

The best way to find a nearby Salvation Army church is to use the link below. Search using your postcode: salvationarmy.org.au/our-faith/easter/

We look forward to seeing you.