

# salvos

magazine

EASTER EDITION 2024

## The road ahead

The journey can be hard, but  
we don't have to walk alone



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### FEATURE

The final  
word

### FAITH TALK

Stop the  
world!

### MY STORY

René's Easter  
story

*"Joy is based on the spiritual knowledge that, while the world in which we live is shrouded in darkness, God has overcome the world."*

*- Henri Nouwen*





## 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



The Salvation Army Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and work and pay our respect to Elders, past, present, and future. We value and include people of all cultures, languages, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and intersex status. We are committed to providing programs that are fully inclusive. We are committed to the safety and well-being of people of all ages, particularly children.

# Salvos Magazine

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I want to get off**



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## We are not alone

Millions of people around the world will soon celebrate Easter, in culturally various ways. In Australia, many people go to church, others enjoy Easter egg hunts and family get-togethers and others get away for an extra-long weekend!

Too many, though, will spend the holidays alone, hungry, sad and without hope.

Easter is significant because it offers the reality of hope, new life and God's constant presence. Having hope and experiencing the deep joy of spiritual freedom can seem almost impossible as we face personal upheavals, see tragedies unfolding locally and globally and just try to live our daily lives.

Jesus knows this. He understands our needs, emotions and frailties. He relates to grief, loss, loneliness, violence and pain. As our Easter-focused stories discuss, Jesus willingly came to earth, lived and died for us, and today continues his work of liberation, restoration and healing in our lives – despite our circumstances.

To learn more about the meaning of Easter, to connect with the Salvos or get help from Salvos services, go to [salvationarmy.org.au/our-faith/easter](http://salvationarmy.org.au/our-faith/easter)

Simone Worthing **Editor**



# The road ahead

The journey can be hard, but we don't have to walk alone

By Faye Michelson

What do you see as you stand there, gazing into the distance? Is your road ahead seemingly endless, desolate and barren? Or does it twist and turn so sharply you can see only a few metres ahead? Perhaps it looks impassable, a hard slog through a landscape strewn with deep potholes and rocks.

Turn your head to look back along the road you've already travelled. Is it just more of the same, or was the journey then a happier or easier one?

If only life was one long stroll through the park, all shady trees and soft grass. But it's not that for all sorts of reasons, and so often these are beyond our control.

This was the scenario for two friends a few thousand years ago as they walked slowly out of Jerusalem. Cleopas and his companion were making the journey by foot to a village called Emmaus. It was an 11km walk along a dusty road, but they barely noticed the distance as they shared their grief over the events of the past few days.

## A COMPANION ON THE ROAD

They were so engrossed in their conversation that they didn't notice the man who walked up to them until he spoke. "You're in deep discussion about something. What are you so concerned about?"

Cleopas and his friend stopped in their tracks, their faces etched with the strain of deep sadness. "Are you the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard

about the terrible things that happened there last week?" demanded Cleopas.

The man simply asked, "What things?"

The two friends poured out their sorrow, confusion and anger to this stranger as they continued their journey.

"We mean the things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did incredible miracles and was a mighty teacher, highly regarded by both God and man. But the chief priests and our religious leaders arrested him and handed him over to the Roman government to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. We had thought he was the glorious Messiah and that he had come to rescue Israel," they explained.

"And now, besides all this – which happened three days ago – some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning and came back with an amazing report that his body was missing, and that they had seen some angels there who told them Jesus is alive! Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, Jesus' body was gone, just as the women had said."

Their new companion listened to them carefully, then responded. "Do you find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures! Wasn't it clearly predicted by the prophets that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his time of glory?" ►









He then explained to them everything written about the Messiah, God's Saviour, in the Scriptures (the Old Testament of today's Bible), starting with the Law of Moses. He talked until they reached the village, just as the sun was starting to set. The man prepared to leave them, but Cleopas and his friend urged him to stay with them. "It's late – stay and eat with us."

As they sat down to share the meal together, the man took some bread, blessed it and passed it to them. And in that moment, they knew without a doubt who this man was. He was Jesus.

And as soon as the realisation struck them, he was gone.

Cleopas and his friend looked at each other. They began telling each other how their hearts had felt like they were "burning" as he had explained the Scriptures to them as they'd walked down the road.

Within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem, where the 11 disciples and the other followers greeted them with these words, "The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter!" They recounted how they, too, had seen Jesus.

### EYES OPEN

How could Cleopas and his friend spend hours walking with Jesus and not know it was him? How is that possible?

All we know is that "their eyes were kept from recognising him". Perhaps Jesus concealed himself from them until he felt they were ready to see him. Perhaps they could see nothing beyond their grief, blinded by emotion as they processed the trauma they had just experienced. But we do know that when they realised they had seen the living Jesus, they went straight back to Jerusalem along that 11km of road to tell their friends. The road ahead looked different this time round.

The paths we have to travel can be hard, but the journey doesn't have to be one we take alone. Jesus said these words to those who believed in him, words that are meant for us as well: "I will be with you always, even until the end of the world" (Matthew chapter 28, verse 20). We're often on our own road to Emmaus; we have only to open our eyes to know he is there with us.

Read this account in Luke chapter 24, verses 13-35, *Living Bible* version.

# The final word

The continuing story of compelling grace

By General Lyndon Buckingham

Several of the main characters in the crucifixion and resurrection story of Jesus did not agree about much of anything, but they did agree about this: the story of Jesus was over.

Pontius Pilate (Roman governor of Judea who presided at the trial of Jesus) believed he was the final word on all things that happened in his region. It was a troubled part of the Roman world but, despite the challenging situation, Pilate was accustomed to having unquestioned authority. If he decided an innocent man needed to die to keep the peace, so be it.

He handed Jesus over to be crucified, and the oft-practised theatre of killing on a cross was performed on his orders. Later, after hearing of Jesus' death, Pilate issued his final instructions to the religious leaders. "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how" (Matthew

chapter 27, verse 65). There was essentially a triple lock on Jesus' tomb: a large stone was rolled in front, an official seal served as a powerful warning and armed guards watched to ensure that no one interfered. Pilate was certain that he was the final authority on the story of Jesus.

“

**The story of Jesus was not over . . . God always has the final word.**

”

## THE FINAL CHAPTER?

Mary, mother of Jesus, understood the anguish of seeing a loved one suffer. She watched as opposition to Jesus grew, and she would have worried ▶



day after day that something terrible would happen. Eventually, the powerful enemies of Jesus moved against him. Following his arrest, rumours probably circulated about the beatings, the torture and the humiliation he was enduring. She would have felt so helpless, so broken to know that her son was experiencing such pain. Mary would have given her own life to save his, but that was not possible. The best his mother could do was to stand close by until the bitter end, not wanting him to face those final painful moments alone. She was there, near the cross, as Jesus took his last breath (John chapter 19, verse 25). Filled with despair, Mary was certain that his excruciating death was the final chapter of the story of Jesus.

Peter (a disciple or follower of Jesus) knew his ministry was over and, in truth, he knew it deserved to be. After all, he had denied Jesus, not once, not twice, but three times. Right when Jesus needed him the most, he had failed miserably. After the cock crowed, and Peter remembered Jesus' words – that before the cock crows, Peter would disown Jesus three times – he bowed his head in defeat and wept bitterly (Matthew chapter 26, verse 75).

Peter had never known utter despair like this. Despite promising his friend and rabbi that even if others denied him, he never would, it had taken only a persistent servant girl to make him unravel and fall apart. In denying Jesus, Peter had lost the ministry that had become his life and joy over the past three years. With his friend's public death on the cross, combined with his own repeated denial of being one of his disciples, Peter believed his part in the story of Jesus was now over.

## EVERYTHING CHANGES

But the story of Jesus was not over. They each forgot one very important thing: God always has the final word.

On that first Easter morning, when everyone assumed that the whole story of Jesus had already been written, the Heavenly Father wrote the most powerful chapter yet. The large stone was rolled away, the seal was broken and the guards were overcome with fear (Matthew chapter 28, verses 2-4). This all demonstrated that no people or power on earth can prevent God from having the final word.

“

**Jesus was risen, alive again, and . . . everything had changed.**

”

Jesus was risen, alive again, and because of that powerful truth, everything had changed. Pilate and the circumstances he dictated did not have final authority over God's Son or his followers. Mary was able to see her son's death not as the end, but as part of the continuing story of God's compelling grace for humankind. And in the days that followed, Peter discovered that his post-denial ministry would be even greater than he dared hope or imagine (John chapter 21, verses 15-19).

## RESTORATION AND RENEWAL

Perhaps you are facing challenging situations in your life right now. Be assured of this: God will have the final word, and no enemy or circumstance can stand against the word of our Almighty God.





Perhaps someone you love is suffering deeply, and you feel inadequate to relieve their pain or heal their hurt. Remember, God will have the final word, and that word will be filled with grace and hope and ultimate victory.

“

**God is greater than any foe  
that stands against him.**

”

Perhaps, like Peter, you no longer feel worthy to be used by God. Possibly at one time you abandoned him and are convinced he has now abandoned you. Be certain of this: God will have the final word, and it will be a powerful word of restoration and renewal. And who knows? Perhaps, like Peter, you will discover your most impactful ministry is yet to come.

My prayer for you, and for the whole of The Salvation Army, is that this Easter will proclaim anew that the story of Jesus is not over, and that God always has the final, victorious word. It will be a triumphant word that reminds us that God is greater than any foe that stands against him. It will be a powerful word of grace and hope for the broken-hearted and hurting. And it will be a restorative word, reminding us that no sin is greater than his redeeming grace.

God will have the final word, and it will be a word of victory!

Happy Easter, and God bless you.

*General Lyndon Buckingham is the world leader of The Salvation Army*



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army services.

# Stop the world, I want to get off

Longing for peace in confusing and chaotic times

By Fay Foster

In 1961, a new musical was named after some graffiti the composer had seen. That graffiti said, 'Stop the world, I want to get off.'

Do you ever feel like that? There is so much happening, so much fear and anxiety and busyness and confusion, it feels like too much. We want to escape to an alternative universe where things are calm and simple.

## FEAR AND CONFUSION

On the evening of his resurrection, the disciples of Jesus had hidden themselves away in a room with the door closed, "for fear of the Jewish leaders" (John chapter 20, verse 19). The events of the past few days must have been

whirling in their heads. Their leader had been captured and killed – what would the authorities do to them if it became known that they were his disciples? And what were they to do now anyway, with no direction from their leader?

“

**We want to escape to an alternative universe where things are calm and simple.**

”

Added to that confusion, Jesus appeared to have risen from the dead. Some of the disciples claimed to have seen proof – the tomb was empty. But where was he now? Through Mary, he had told the men, "I am going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." So what did that mean? Would they ever see him again? The confusion – maybe just the weirdness of it all – was becoming too much.

Suddenly, Jesus came and stood in the middle of them. "Peace be with you," he said.

After he said this, he showed them his hands and side, where he had been injured by the nails and the spear. The disciples were overjoyed – they were certain now that this really was Jesus. He was alive!





## SENDING PEACE

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

One of the remarkable things about Jesus is that he can step into the middle of fear and chaos and bring peace. Often in the most unexpected ways.

In a room full of confused and frightened men, Jesus brings words of peace, and his presence stills their anxious hearts and replaces fear with joy. What's more, he comes with a gift for them – the gift of the Holy Spirit. Never again would they need to wonder where God is in all of this. He is right with them; his Spirit is in them. From now on, they will do the work that Jesus had done.

“

**The confusion – maybe just the weirdness of it all – was becoming too much.**

”

When we feel like shouting, "Stop the world, I want to get off", let's ask Jesus to come and bring his peace. He just might calm us, reassure us, fill us with joy, and give us the power to be his representatives in a world that desperately needs him.



Scan here for more stories of hope.

# "Battle scars can be beautiful"

René's Easter story

By René

I grew up in a carefree, country town existence. I remember vividly the feeling of freedom, peace and spaciousness of living in the country, swimming in freshwater creeks in the summer and watching the snow fall and cover the ground in the winter. At eight years old, I didn't have a care in the world.

But life was to change dramatically.

## YEARS OF STRUGGLE

I was 10 when my parents divorced, and my mum [struggled] as a single mum with five children to raise. We moved often and she ended up in a series of troubled relationships.

“

**I had no voice and I felt worthless and invisible.**

”

Unfortunately, my life filled with abuse, violence and fear [from some of these men] for many years. Feeling shame at what was happening to me, combined with not wanting to upset my mother, I didn't tell her what was happening.

The outgoing, curious, happy girl I had been, faded. I became painfully shy – I had no voice and I felt worthless and invisible. I started getting bullied at school and struggled all my teenage years, feeling like I didn't fit in anywhere.

I started self-harming, drinking and doing anything to avoid and numb my feelings, while trying to find my way in life. But I didn't know what having a healthy, functional life meant or looked like.

## CHURCH AND CHANGE

Things really began to change when I had my daughter at age 26. I looked down at her as a newborn and I promised her that she would never have the life that I had. I went on to have a second child. A beautiful son. My children mean everything to me!

When I first had my daughter, I thought, "Well, you've tried everything else René, why not church? What have you got to lose?" I found a church around the corner and went that Sunday.

With my baby girl in tow, I walked into the church and found a special service that day. God's incredible timing! There were abuse survivors talking about how they'd built happy, healthy lives. When I looked around the room, people were crying, applauding.

That was the moment that I thought, "Maybe it's not shameful what happened to me, maybe there is hope."

I put my hand up in that service and went, "Yep, I want what they've all got. I don't know what that means, but I want a relationship with Jesus if that's truly how much he loves me."

I accepted Christ into my life that day. I rebuilt my life based on who he said





René gives a message during an interview with Bill Hunter, leader of the Salvos church 'God's Sports Arena'.

I was – that I was precious, loved and created for a purpose.

### CARING FOR OTHERS

I work for the Salvos now – as a Freedom Pathways support worker. My role there is to listen to, care for, and connect people with services and support to help them get back on their feet ... I just love it. I go to work every day, grateful and energised.

“

**Easter ... it means hope  
and it means grace.**

”

My life today is full of faith, love, safety, peace, happiness, success, travel and career satisfaction. Daily, my children and I share and celebrate our dreams, laughter, independence, strength, hope and, most of all, our happy, healthy and thriving family. I am so very grateful!

### EASTER HOPE AND GRACE

Easter, for me, is a special time. It means hope and it means grace.

I remember when I first read the Old Testament in the Bible. I was confused – I thought that I would never measure up to God's standard. And then I learned that was the whole reason that Jesus came and died on the cross – so I could meet God's standard, without having to do anything. He did it for me, and for everyone. The amount of gratitude and overwhelming joy I felt was unbelievable. It continually overwhelms me!

Readers, I hope you have a beautiful Easter and please know, no matter how hard and dark life looks, there is hope and grace enough for us all. No matter how terrible the battle scars you are carrying, they, like you, are beautiful.



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army services.

## DIY Easter eggs



PHOTO BY MONIKA GRABKOWSKA ON UNISTOCK

### Ingredients

Eggs, 1 tsp salt, 1 cup boiling water per colour, 2 tbsp vinegar, food colouring

### Method

- To hard boil eggs, gently place eggs in saucepan, cover well with tap water. Add salt to the water.
- Place pan over medium heat and let simmer for 8 minutes.
- Remove eggs from heat and water, placing them in cold water to cool.
- To dye eggs, combine boiling water, vinegar and food colouring in bowl, stirring well. Use a different bowl for each colour.
- For patterns, use a white crayon to draw designs on your eggs.
- Place eggs in dye for 2-5 minutes.
- Allow eggs to dry and store in refrigerator for up to 1 week.

## HAVE A LAUGH



What is a rabbit's favourite style of dance?  
**Hip-hop**

What's a rabbit's favourite game?  
**Hopscotch**

What sort of jewellery do rabbits like?  
**24 carat gold**

What do you call a line of rabbits walking backwards?  
**A receding hare-line**

## SIGNING IN

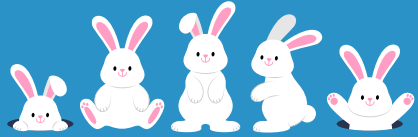




# Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

6				2	8			9
	2	8	6		9		3	4
								8
	6							1
		4					6	
		9		6		8	5	
		2	9	3			4	
5			2					
4			5		1		7	2



## Quick quiz

1. Judy Garland stars alongside which classic movie star in the musical *Easter Parade*?
2. Who wrote the music for rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar*?
3. Who wrote *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*?
4. Which band had a hit song with the words, "I am the egg man, they are the egg men"?
5. Which item does the rabbit from *Alice in Wonderland* always carry?
6. *He's Alive* was an Easter hit for which country music star?

## Tum-Tum



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

## Bible byte

"Jesus told her, 'I am the resurrection and the life'."

John chapter 11, verse 25  
New Living Translation

**Quiz answers:** 1. Fred Astaire 2. Andrew Lloyd Webber 3. Beatrix Potter 4. The Beatles 5. A pocket watch 6. Dolly Parton

Tum-Tum: is hiding on the table of contents on page 3.

DID YOU KNOW?

**In Antigua, Guatemala, the town covers the streets in colourful carpets in preparation for a Good Friday procession. The carpets are made from flowers, coloured sawdust, fruits, vegetables and sand.**

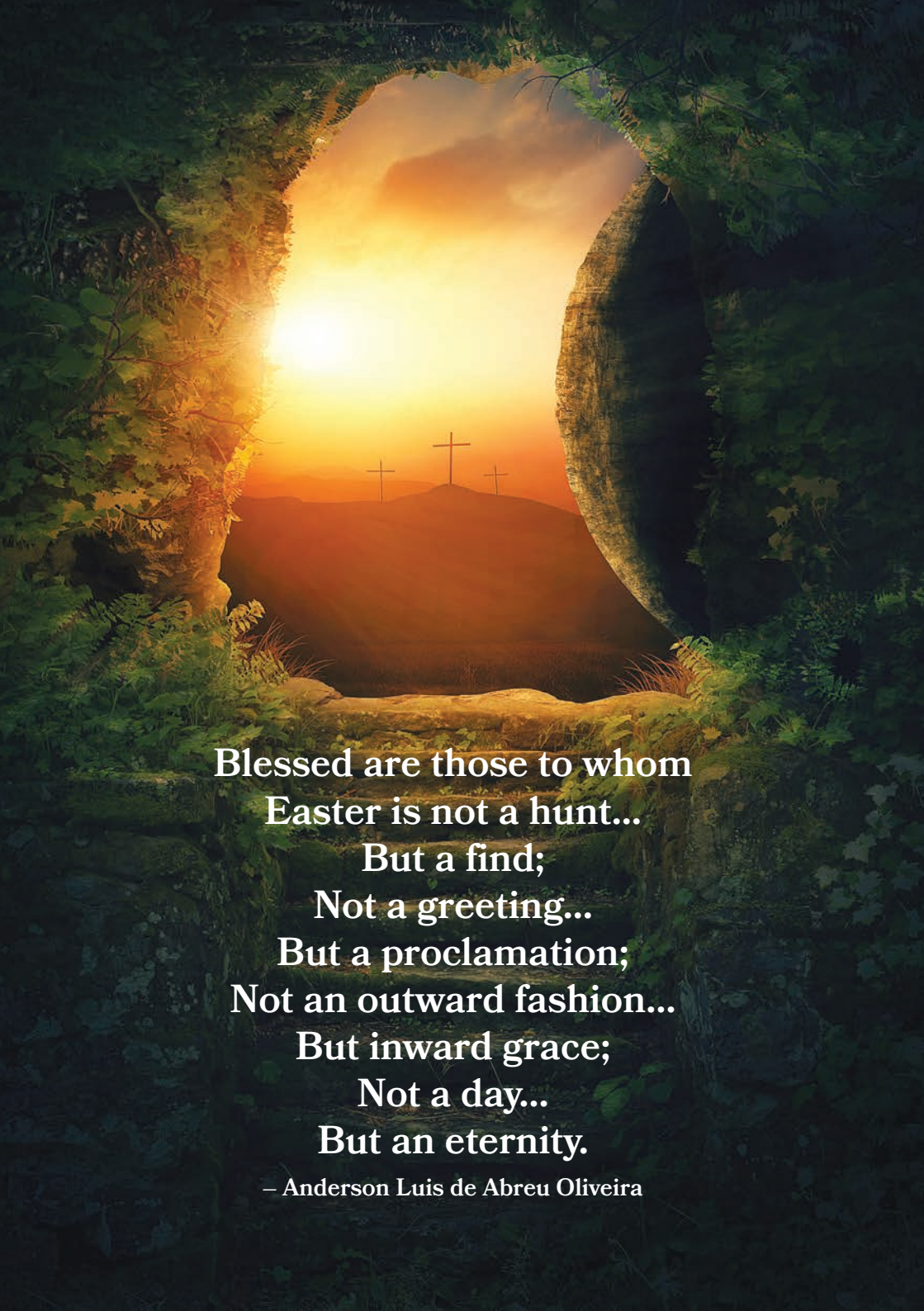
**In Bermuda, festivities begin with a Good Friday KiteFest.**

**In Florence, Italy, locals celebrate a 350-year-old tradition known as the 'explosion of the cart'.**

**An ornate cart is loaded with fireworks and led through the streets. The archbishop lights the fuse.**

**In Greece, eggs are dyed red to represent rebirth and Jesus' blood.**

4	9	6	5	8	1	3	7	2
5	3	1	2	4	7	9	8	6
8	7	2	9	3	6	1	4	5
3	1	9	4	6	2	8	5	7
7	8	4	1	9	5	2	6	3
2	6	5	8	7	3	4	9	1
9	5	3	7	1	4	6	2	8
1	2	8	6	5	9	7	3	4
6	4	7	3	2	8	5	1	9

A scenic view of a sunrise or sunset through a natural rock archway, with three crosses visible on the horizon. The scene is framed by lush green foliage and ferns. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow. Three crosses are visible on the horizon line, set against a backdrop of rolling hills. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

**Blessed are those to whom  
Easter is not a hunt...  
But a find;  
Not a greeting...  
But a proclamation;  
Not an outward fashion...  
But inward grace;  
Not a day...  
But an eternity.**

– Anderson Luis de Abreu Oliveira