

# salvos

*magazine*

EASTER EDITION 2023

## An encounter with the 'gardener'

The resurrection of Jesus  
through the eyes of  
Mary Magdalene



Vol. 004 | No. 10  
1 April 2023  
AUD \$1.00  
PRINT POST APPROVED  
PP100001474

[salvosonline.org.au](http://salvosonline.org.au)

### FEATURE

The real  
meaning of  
Easter

### FAITH TALK

Gifts from  
the gardener

### MY STORY

The healing  
power of  
serving  
others



“Easter brings the awareness that  
God is present even when his  
presence is not directly noticed.”

– *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

**Founders** William and Catherine Booth

**General** Brian Peddle

**Territorial Leader** Commissioner Miriam Gluyas

**Secretary for Communications and Editor-In-Chief**

Colonel Rodney Walters

**Publications Manager** Cheryl Tinker

**Editor** Simone Worthing

**Graphic Designer** Ryan Harrison

**Enquiry email** [publications@salvationarmy.org.au](mailto:publications@salvationarmy.org.au)

**All other Salvation Army enquiries** 13 72 58

**Press date** 20 March 2023

Printed and published for The Salvation Army by Commissioner Miriam Gluyas at Focus Print Group, South Granville, NSW



[salvosonline.org.au](http://salvosonline.org.au)



## Nobody is excluded

Next weekend we commemorate Easter – one of Christianity's major celebrations. It's a holiday marked by millions around the globe in culturally various ways. In Australia, many people go to church on Good Friday or get up early for Easter Sunday sunrise services. Others enjoy Easter egg hunts, hot cross buns of various flavours, and get-togethers with family and friends. For others, it's a chance to get away for an extra-long weekend!

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

Easter, like Christmas, is significant because it offers the reality of hope, freedom and a changed life for all. The death and resurrection of Jesus that Easter commemorates gives everyone an opportunity to experience the unconditional love of God and a relationship with him – regardless of who they are, where they live, their past or their present.

This is good news for a tumultuous and suffering world.

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

Simone Worthing **Editor**



# Celebrating Easter

What does it all mean?

**WORDS** Julia Hosking

Easter is a celebration of love and life. God loves us so much he sent his son Jesus into the world because he wants to give meaning and purpose to our lives.

“For here is the way God loved the world – he gave his only, unique son as a gift. So now everyone who believes in him will never perish but experience everlasting life” (John chapter 3, verse 16).

Every year, Easter has two significant celebrations – Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Unlike Christmas, these dates change from year to year, based on the lunar calendar.

In 2023, Easter will be celebrated on Good Friday 7 April, and Easter Sunday 9 April. Many churches start Easter celebrations one week earlier on Palm Sunday, which leads to the term ‘Holy Week’.

Holy Week refers to the days and events leading up to Easter Sunday. It starts with Palm Sunday, when Jesus was celebrated as King and Saviour by large crowds as he came into Jerusalem, before his betrayal by a close friend, his last meal with his followers, a night of sorrowful prayer and then Good Friday – when Jesus died on the cross.

## **CRUCIFIED ON A CROSS**

Good Friday is significant because it was the first step in reconciling the world and humanity to our creator God.

While on Earth, Jesus experienced life as a human. Throughout his life, he knew what it was like to be hungry, tired, alone and grieving. Then, on Good Friday he was betrayed, rejected and crucified.

“

**Good Friday ... was the first step in reconciling the world and humanity to our creator God.**

”

After he died, Jesus was taken down from the cross and his body was placed in a dark tomb, sealed and guarded from the outside with a heavy stone.

On Saturday, Jesus’ followers felt devastated, afraid, disappointed, uncertain and hopeless. But on Sunday, a miracle happened.



## RISEN FROM THE DEAD

The Bible says in the first light of day some women went to Jesus' tomb, expecting to anoint his dead body, as per their custom. But instead of finding Jesus' body they saw angels, who said, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? He isn't here! He is risen from the dead!" (Luke chapter 24, verses 5-6).

In the days that followed, Jesus appeared to his disciples many times, showing them that he truly was alive. This event – Jesus' resurrection – is the reason for Easter Sunday celebrations as it gives Christians their hope and joy.

Holy Week is full of contrasts. There is honour and praise followed by a day of deep, dark sadness, followed by joy, hope and light.

Despite hot cross buns and Easter eggs appearing on store shelves from early January, it can be a little complicated understanding why Good Friday is 'good', why Easter is celebrated or how the meaning of Easter relates to our lives today.

## THE ESSENCE OF EASTER

Jesus says, "I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance" (John chapter 10, verse 10b). This is the essence of Easter. Jesus' life, death and resurrection are for all our sakes, so that we can have life in all its fullness – both now and in the future.

When the world offers us stress about the cost of living and interest rate rises, Jesus offers us peace. When the world seems full of hate and devastation, Jesus extends love and wholeness.

Many of the emotions that were there on Good Friday are similar to those we may be experiencing today. Friends who betray and reject us. Fear and anxiety over financial insecurity and sickness. Pain and heartache for loved ones. Confusion and hopelessness about the future. Grief, despair, loneliness. Jesus understands it all.

He took all of this, including our shame, brokenness and mistakes, upon himself. He put them to death on the cross where he died so that we could be free of it all.

The significance of Good Friday lies in the fact that Jesus loves us so much he gave up everything so that we could experience true and everlasting life. Jesus' death was a sacrifice for everyone so that we can have a close relationship with God. It was an overwhelmingly great act of love! ▶







## EASTER AT THE SALVOS

Easter is a significant event on the Christian calendar and, as part of the Christian church, The Salvation Army will host faith gatherings across the weekend. Each gathering will be different, as the Salvos respond to the needs of the community in which they are based.

On Good Friday – to reflect on the death of Jesus – some Salvos will host contemplative church services, decorate their halls with candles and crosses for quiet prayer services, provide hot cross bun morning teas or walk through the streets with a cross.

On Easter Sunday – to celebrate Jesus' coming back to life – churches including the Salvos will host upbeat, celebratory services, dawn services in outdoor settings, or Easter egg hunts.

The Salvos welcome people from all backgrounds to come and celebrate Easter with us. Whether you grew up in a Christian environment or not, your local Salvos would love to see you at Easter or throughout the year at various informal gatherings including playgroups, women's outings, seniors' groups, small group spiritual chats and more.

This Easter, our prayer is that you discover what it means to become truly alive in and through God's love.

*Julia Hosking is a communications content specialist for The Salvation Army Australia.*



Scan here for more information on Easter and Salvation Army services.

# An encounter with the 'gardener'

The resurrection of Jesus through the eyes of Mary Magdalene

**WORDS** Jo-anne Brown

## MARY'S STORY\*

It's early in the morning and the heavy darkness of the night is just beginning to lift. The heavy darkness in my heart, however, still sits like a stone deep inside me and yet my eyes are dry.

I gather fragrant oils and spices and quietly leave the house. It is a long, slow walk to the place where he is buried, and my thoughts turn to those last days, so filled with trauma, and to the early days, which seem so long ago now.

## LOVE AND COMPASSION

I remember the first time he looked at me – a look of compassion when I had

been so used to people looking at me with contempt or disgust. He saw me as though he saw into the very depths of my heart – and still didn't turn away! I couldn't hide anything, even if I had wanted to. He reached out and touched me, healing me from the pain and suffering within, from the feelings of failure and unworthiness. No one had ever touched me with such compassion before. No one had ever truly seen me before, seen who I was beneath all the layers and masks I had worn for so long. Life was never the same for me after that. I was filled with joy and felt ►







completely free for the first time ever. I wanted nothing more than to fall at his feet, the feet of Jesus, son of God. Jesus spoke words of life, truth and freedom to me, and I was so incredibly thankful. I longed to learn more from him, to learn the ways of true love and compassion, to learn forgiveness and trust, to learn how to live with kindness and hope in a world that can be cruel and chaotic.

I did learn all that and more from him. I saw him show compassion to all sorts of people, even those who were unkind to him. I saw him touch and heal those who most needed it. I saw how he spent time with people who no one else wanted anything to do with. I learned from him what forgiveness looks like and feels like – and how freeing such forgiveness is.

### **JESUS CRUCIFIED**

And I saw him stripped and whipped, beaten and tortured. For months I had

walked with him and his companions on roads throughout the country as he taught and healed. I walked with him on his last walk through the streets of Jerusalem, broken and bloodied and carrying a cross. I stood there as he was nailed to that cross and hung there to die. I watched, with the other women who loved him, as his body was taken from the cross and placed in a tomb.

And I watched as a massive stone was rolled across the entrance to the tomb so that no one could move his body.

This bothers me now as I approach his tomb. I want to anoint his body, according to our customs, but I have no way to move the stone from the entrance of the tomb and I don't expect there to be anyone around to help me.

I lift my gaze toward the tomb and my steps slow and the oils and spices fall out of my arms. The stone has been



moved and I can see right into the tomb! I can't even imagine how that happened. I run to tell our friends that Jesus' body has been taken away and Peter and John run back with me to see for themselves. They look inside, and all they see is empty graveclothes. There is no body.

They go back to where they are staying, but I cannot bear to leave the tomb.

I have no idea where Jesus' body is, and this grief overwhelms me. Sobbing, I look into the tomb, and it is no longer empty. Two angels, dazzling in white, are sitting where Jesus' body had been placed. I can barely speak for grief, but I tell them that the body of Jesus has been taken and I don't know where he is.

I hear a voice behind me, asking why I am crying. He must be the gardener and must know something, so I explain that I am looking for the body of Jesus and plead with him for help.



PHOTO BY DON FONTIJN ON UNSPLASH

## JESUS IS ALIVE

As I look at him, hoping he can tell me where Jesus is, he speaks my name! And I know! This is Jesus! I hadn't recognised him at first, but when I hear him speak my name, as he has done so many times before, I know it is Jesus, alive!

“

**No one had ever  
truly seen me before ...  
beneath all the layers and  
masks I had worn for so long.**

”

I know and I believe. All the things he had taught us, all the strange promises that didn't make sense – it is all true. It is three days since his death and Jesus is no longer in the tomb but alive and speaking with me! I think of his mother, his family and closest friends, and I am amazed that it is me, an ordinary woman, standing here outside the tomb, speaking with Jesus who is so clearly full of life.

Again, like that first encounter so long ago, I am filled with joy and want nothing more than to tell the whole world that I have seen the Lord! Jesus is alive!

*\* Mary Magdalene was a follower of Jesus and the first to witness his resurrection.*



Scan here for more information on Easter and Salvation Army services.

# Gifts from the gardener

New life and regeneration reflect the Easter message

**WORDS** Faye Michelson

Gardeners are givers. Are you, like me, fortunate to have green-thumbed friends who come bearing gifts when they visit? Little jewels of tomatoes, bursting with flavour and colour, or bunches of roses with heady fragrances. Gardeners love to share the produce of their veggie patches and blooms from their gardens.

And plants! They love to give plants. I have several specimens in my little garden that I call my generational plants. I have two pomegranate trees, both given to me. My mother grew one of these in her own garden. Her pomegranate tree occasionally sends up little baby suckers and when these are big enough she digs them out and gives them away.



Her tree came from the lawn bowls club she belonged to in the 1990s. When it merged with another club and the grounds were marked for redevelopment, members were invited to take whatever plants they wanted before the demolition team moved in. She dug up a mature pomegranate, which was quite small because the greenkeeper had kept it heavily pruned.

“

**Gardens are places of enjoyment and at times disappointment – sometimes giving us plenty and sometimes little.**

”

Since being replanted it has grown wide and tall, and crops well now it is away from the greenkeeper's stringent secateurs. We have no idea how old the tree is, but I – and several others – are growing its next generation of offshoots!

## **GENERATIONAL PLANTS**

Some of my pots of geraniums are also 'generational', cuttings taken from plants grown by aunts and friends who are only too happy to transplant a piece of their garden's colour and beauty into another.



Then there is the little box in my garden shed, filled with envelopes. These contain seeds given to me by my daughter, a keen gardener, who collects them from the vegetables and flowers she grows. Her annual stunning display of dahlias is generational.



Each year, she harvests her seeds, putting them into carefully labelled envelopes, and gives some away ready for them to be planted next season. These tiny gifts come with anticipation – there’s such a feeling of triumph when a green shoot finally bursts through the soil!

But as any gardener – even one as average as me – knows, gardens aren’t just places to admire. They are places requiring effort, even if it is mostly enjoyed. It’s a continuous cycle of pruning, weeding, watering, planting and digging. Gardens are places of enjoyment and at times disappointment – sometimes giving us plenty and sometimes little.

## LIFE AND REGENERATION

Gardens are places of life and death – plants thrive and plants die. A poor yield of zucchinis or tomatoes this year? Black spot affecting the roses? There’s always hope for the next season.

I love that it was in a garden, a place of life and regeneration, that Jesus, the giver of life, chose to reveal himself after he rose from the dead. He offers us a new season – an opportunity to live life with him. That’s the message of Easter.

“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” (John chapter three, verse 26, *New Living Bible*).



Scan here more stories of hope and community.

# The healing power of serving others

For Andrew, a volunteer at Caloundra Salvation Army House 4 Hope, Easter is a time to remember God's love and guidance.

**WORDS** Andrew

I was born in Melbourne and brought up in the Catholic Church. My parents owned a large toy store, which was a bonus as a kid growing up, and I loved minibikes and all that sort of stuff.

My family moved to Queensland when I was 14 and life changed. I was a reserved child and making new friends was difficult. I wanted to make friends and fit in, but it was a challenge.

One night I was invited to hang out with some guys and we got some beer.

They all thought I was hilarious after a few drinks, so they invited me back the next day. Unfortunately, the alcohol got worse for me over the years, even though I was always functional. I became a greenkeeper and generally worked in horticulture, but I've done other things as well.

To me, an alcoholic was someone on the park bench, not someone with a job and housing, but over time I got to the point where I hated myself. Every single day I just had to get drunk because I didn't like the person I'd become. There were so many rock-bottom moments over the years – waking up in a police cell covered in my own blood with no idea how I got there or what had happened.

It finally got to a point in my life after drinking for 30-odd years that something changed – I believe God intervened somehow. I rang my father and said, "Please come and get me."

## **FAITH, HEALING AND RECOVERY**

That was back in 2016 and I started going to a 12-step program. During that time, I had a couple of relapses and decided to change my 12-step sponsor. The guy who became my sponsor, Paul, was a Christian and in the Salvos, and we just clicked.

One day, over a cuppa at his place, he prayed for me. Nothing dramatic. But when I was driving home I had tears in my



Andrew believes love and hope can always be found.





Helping others in the community has played a powerful role in Andrew's healing and recovery.

eyes. It was like a release, and I thought, "Yep, there's something in this for sure."

I went to the local Salvos with Paul, and then to a small group gathering. I just loved the feeling. I started going to the Salvos corps (church) and found something genuinely peaceful about the place.

I also loved what they were doing to support people who were struggling, and I wanted to get involved. Now I spend about 10 or 12 hours a week volunteering at the Salvos House 4 Hope, where people can collect their grocery cards and food. I help out by giving cards and packages to people, and having a chat.

I've got a disease called CMT – Charcot-Marie-Tooth, which is a nerve disorder that causes muscle waste in my limbs. It is degenerative, so I'll probably end up in a wheelchair but it doesn't bother me. I'm just grateful for my life and feel so blessed to be sober and alive.

### A HEART TO HELP OTHERS

I would say to people who are struggling that there is hope. There is love to be found, and Easter is a good time to remember that God is love.

For so long I couldn't function without alcohol and I had no hope whatsoever. Then God intervened in my life and from where I was in 2016 to where I am now has been just an amazing turnaround. It took care and effort from others like Paul. It took an intervention from God.

I've also learned that helping other people is one of the most powerful things you can do – not only for others and your community, but also for yourself!



Scan here for more information on Salvation Army Alcohol and Other Drugs services.

## Hot cross bun pudding



### Ingredients

8 hot cross buns; 50g butter; 100g dark chocolate, chopped; 350ml cream, plus extra to serve; 2 tsp vanilla essence; 1½ cups milk; 4 eggs; ½ cup caster sugar; 60ml orange juice; icing sugar to dust

### Method

- Grease an 8-cup capacity baking dish. Split buns through the centre. Spread butter on each bun half and place bases into pan. Sprinkle chocolate over buns.
- Pour cream and vanilla into a saucepan and heat on medium for 5 minutes. Whisk milk, eggs, sugar and orange juice in a bowl. Add warm cream. Pour mixture over buns. Place bun tops over bases. Set aside for 15 minutes.
- Preheat oven to 180°C. Place baking dish into a large roasting pan and pour enough boiling water to come halfway up the sides of baking dish. Bake for 45-50 minutes or until the custard is just set in the centre.
- Dust with icing sugar and serve with a drizzle of the extra cream.

## FUNNY THINGS KIDS SAY

**Mum:** Did you practise your words?  
**Five-year-old:** No.  
**Mum:** You have to learn them some time.  
**Five-year-old:** Not if I'm a dog.



### Three-year-old learning the Lord's Prayer:

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us some email ...

**Seven-year-old:** Most inventors are smart, but not the person who invented homework. They are the worst of the inventors.

## SIGNING IN





# Sudoku

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

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



1. What is the Sunday before Easter called?
2. Judas betrayed Jesus in exchange for what?
3. How many days passed between Jesus' death and resurrection?
4. Who was the prisoner Pontius Pilate released instead of Jesus?
5. What Jewish feast was being celebrated during the week of Jesus' death and resurrection?
6. Who did Mary mistake as a gardener on Easter Sunday?

# Tum-Tum

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



# Bible byte

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only son. Whoever puts his trust in God's son will not be lost but will have life that lasts forever."

John chapter 3, verse 16  
New Life Version

**Quiz answers:** 1. Palm Sunday 2. 30 pieces of silver 3. Three 4. Barabbas 5. Passover 6. Jesus  
**Tum-Tum:** is hiding behind the bookshelf on page 14.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**International Children's Book Day is held on 2 April each year.**

**This date is the birthday of Danish author Hans Christian Andersen, who wrote fairy tales including *The Little Mermaid*, *The Ugly Duckling* and *Thumbelina*.**

**Children's Book Day was established in 1967 to encourage children to develop a love of books and reading.**

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



Eva Burrows  
College

Eva Burrows College Vocational Training RTO 0328



Turn your passion into  
**your profession**

CHCSS00093

## ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS SKILL SET

Become an entry-level drug and alcohol support professional in your community. This online six-month course will prepare you to assess, support, educate, and counsel people with drug and alcohol issues. Government funded positions may be available (Victoria).

SCAN ME



03 9847 5400  
[evaburrowscollege.edu.au](http://evaburrowscollege.edu.au)