# LSW

children

of Jesus and proclaimed him “My Lord and my God”, the first person to have called Jesus God.

Stories of the Apostles

Jesus stayed with the apostles for forty days before ascending to heaven. Ten days later, he sent the Holy Spirit on them on Pentecost day. Greatly strengthened, the apostles went out to the world and told them about Jesus. *The following stories are not biblical.*

*The apostles drew lots to see where they would go. Peter went to Rome and became the first bishop of Rome. Once, when he was running away to escape from soldiers, he saw Jesus walking the other direction. When he asked Jesus where he was going, Jesus replied that he was going to Rome to be crucified again. Peter was so ashamed of himself that he ran ahead of Jesus and was arrested. He told the soldiers that he should be crucified upside-down as he was not worthy to be crucified like Jesus.*

*Thomas was chosen to go to India. He didn’t want to because it was so far away. Jesus visited him in a dream, but still he told Jesus, “Anywhere Lord but India”. The next morning, Jesus was at the harbour and asked the captain of a ship if he needed a slave, pointing out to him Thomas. The captain called Thomas over and asked him if Jesus was his master. When Thomas said yes, the captain said he had bought him and Thomas was going to India. Thomas went and made many Christians there.*

*Of all the apostles, only John lived to an old age but in exile in the island of Patmos. Andrew was crucified on an X-shaped cross in Greece. James was martyred in Spain and Matthew in Ethiopia. Philip was crucified in Turkey. Bartholomew was whipped to death in Armenia. Simon and Jude were killed for the faith in Persia.*

Year A, B, C

Second Sunday of Easter

**Image**

The Easter Story

**Points to note**

This Sunday’s story continues on from that of Palm Sunday. As such, it is recommended that you refer to the leaflet for Palm Sunday. Where the Passion story ends with Jesus being placed in the tomb, the Easter story picks up from early morning two days later. What happens in the intervening period remains in the realms of the mysteries of faith.

The setting of the story changes. The Passion story was one of a long continuous heavy drama. The Easter story is one many short episodes pieced together. The Passion story was threaded into one flowing narrative. The Easter story seems more chaotic, with few connections between the episodes. Perhaps, the Passion story is more reflective of God’s organised plan, while the Easter story is our story, of the disorganised mortals who were our ancestors in faith.

The mood of the story also changes. The Passion story propels itself forward with by the force of its gripping drama. If told well, the children should be tensed but riveted at the end of it. The Easter story moves quicksilver-like from one episode to another. On the one hand, the shortness of the episodes is more in line with the children’s attention span. One the other, the constant shifting in the story line may prove detrimental. The story-teller must be prepared to lengthen the more exciting episodes or drop the less exciting ones.

The end to the story is also crucial. The Passion story ended on a sombre note, perhaps even a defeatist note. Even for those of us who know of the resurrection round the corner, we can’t but help feel downcast when we hear of Jesus entombed. The Easter story, however, must end very positively. The first bishops of our Church stand poised on the tidal wave of evangelising fervour that will one day engulf much of the world. The end of the Easter story must paint a picture of the apostles bravely facing the unknown future, a hostile world, but also a great adventure about to begin.

## Liturgy

*As with Palm Sunday, I will not set the exact wording of the story but will outline the various episodes and indicated the parts that must be told in* regular print*. Optional parts are in italics.*

*The Easter story is basically contained in the last chapter in each Gospel (the last two in Jn). You should read them for yourself if you are not too familiar. Note however that the sequence of stories in each of the Gospels is a little different and you may have to work out the sequence into a unified story. I have also included a few apocryphal stories about the apostles I have found interesting. The only problem is when children ask where you got the apocryphal stories from. Well, you find your own answers to that one.*

Easter morning: the empty tomb

Early Sunday morning when it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. *This is not Mary the mother of Jesus.* She found the stone at the door to the tomb rolled away, and looking inside, she saw that it was empty. She ran off to tell the apostles.

Peter and John went to the tomb. *John ran ahead of Peter and got there first but he let Peter enter before him.* They saw it empty and remembered that Jesus had told them that he would rise again.

Mary Magdalene and Jesus

Mary stood outside, weeping. When she looked in, she saw two angels who asked why she was crying. She replied that someone had taken her Lord away and she doesn’t know where they have put him.

When she went outside, she met Jesus but did not recognise him. Thinking that he was the gardener, she asked where he had put Jesus. Jesus called her by her name and she recognised Jesus. *Quote Jesus: My sheep know me. Jesus will always call us by our name, as he did with Abraham, Samuel and the others.* But Jesus told her not to cling to him but to tell the others the good news. *Discuss that if anyone had good news, wouldn’t they want to tell the other people?*

Mary ran off to tell the apostles the good news, but nobody believed her!! Well, would you? If someone were to tell you that the chap who died last week was seen around, would you believe him?

Easter afternoon: the road to Emmaus

Two disciples went off on a journey to a nearby town, Emmaus. Jesus came up to them but they didn’t recognise him. *Link this with Mary in the earlier story.* Jesus asked what they were discussing and they told him about the crucifixion and the reports that he had been seen but they were unsure about the reports. Jesus explained to them the passages in the Bible about himself. When they arrived at Emmaus, the two disciples invited Jesus to stay with them for supper. When he broke the bread, they recognised him. *Link this with the words during the institutional narrative at mass, “Do this in memory of me”.* But he disappeared from their sight.

Easter evening: Jesus and Thomas

That evening, the apostles were all gathered in a locked room *because they were afraid.* Jesus walked through the door and had supper with them.  *His first words to them were “Peace be with you”, the same words we use at mass.*

Thomas was not there that evening. When they told him about it, he refused to believe “Unless I put my finger into the holes in his hands and my hand into the hole in his side, I refuse to believe”. The next Sunday, they were gathered likewise and Jesus walked through the door again. Thomas fell at the feet