

## Reflection

### Easter Sunday - joy beyond hope

Sometimes it doesn't work out as you expect. Sometimes even though you know the game is up, even though you know the inevitable outcome, even sometimes when you have given up yourself... ..it doesn't work out as you expect.

There are those days when the child, who has been running away for years, every week, without fail, ...doesn't.

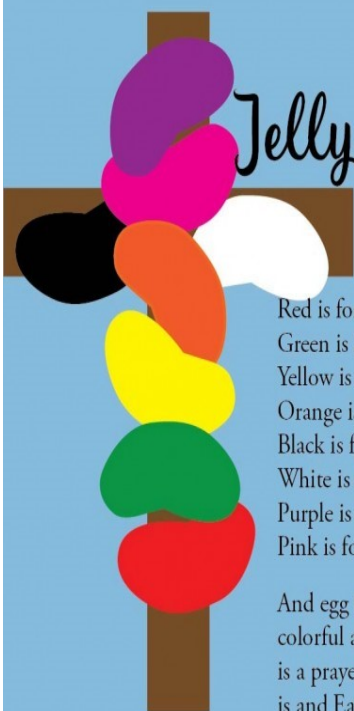
The day when the stranger, is finally accepted for who they are and for so long the outsider, suddenly becomes a friend.

There are those days when, in the face of despair, for some unexpected and incomprehensible reason, our long dead hopes are brought back to life.

There are those days we suddenly realise the stone has been moved... .. and the tomb is empty.



## Prayer for Children



### Jelly Bean Prayer

Red is for the blood He gave.  
Green is for the new life He made.  
Yellow is for the Son of God come to earth  
Orange is for love beyond all worth  
Black is for the sins we made,  
White is for the grace He gave.  
Purple is for His hour of sorrow  
Pink is for our new tomorrow.

And egg full of Jelly Beans,  
colorful and sweet  
is a prayer, is a promise,  
is and Easter treat.

## A prayer of response

Risen, Lord , All glory, honour, and praise be yours. You make all things new, Constantly creating beauty from ashes, And pouring out gladness, all gladness – grace.

Why am I surprised each time you rise With healing in your wings? Answered prayers; transformed lives; Reformed systems; children embraced. All that is good comes from you. Everything that is life comes from you.

And I praise you, praise you, praise you That Calvary's victory is proved again a thousand times each day In glimpses, miracles and reconciliations, Even as we wait for an end to the good fight And strive to have faith for long dead hopes To burst to life as you promised.

Lord, Thank You for coming for us, choosing to walk with us, and promising to return again. In the dead of night, You slipped into the world You made. You stepped into the darkness and promised to be the Light.

In every in between, as we live with questions and trust that You're the answer, please help us to keep our eyes on You, giving You glory in every season. Amen.

### Easter Blessing:

May the Lord bless you this Easter time...

Bless you with faith,  
Guard your doubt,  
Bless you with hope,  
Keep you from fear,  
Bless you with peace,  
Calm you in trouble,  
Bless you with mercy,  
Help you forgive,  
Bless you with joy,  
Comfort you in sorrow,  
So may your heart rejoice in Him who is Risen. Amen.



## A Prayer on Easter Sunday

Lord of all life,

You are our hope and our joy, our source of true happiness.

We have journeyed to Easter and in the most difficult of trials

we have renewed our baptism and proclaimed your resurrection.

We embrace with gladness the new life to which you call each one of us.

Bless us, our families and all the world, with your constant presence and protection. May we give you thanks every day and share the good news of our faith with all we meet.

And may the light of our Easter faith guide our footsteps in your ways of love, peace and truth.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In Easter joy we proclaim, Christ is risen! Alleluia, alleluia!



## Reflection for Easter

In his Easter Sunday greeting in 2019, Pope Francis addressed these words to every Christian:

‘Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world. Everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life ...

Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive! He is in you, he is with you and he never abandons you.’

On this Easter morning take a moment to recognise and appreciate all the signs of hope and new life around us:

light ... water ... flowers ... eggs ... baptism memories and photos ... one another!

## A prayer for Easter Eyes

My Lord, Jesus,  
You have risen to new life!  
Give me new eyes with which to recognise your presence in the world around me. Sharpen my vision so that I see beyond the ordinary events of each day and into the extraordinary reality of your grace. Brighten my view of the world with renewed hope in the coming of your Kingdom. Soften my gaze so that I view others with the kind of tenderness and compassion you showed so many.  
May each day of this Easter season provide glimpses of your glory. In your sacred name, I pray.

Amen

