

## Talking to our children about Easter

In my Primary School years I was fortunate to be taught by nuns. As well as being great teachers, they instilled a deep sense of the importance of Easter in all the children.

It is our greatest Christian Feast.

Sadly, the commercialisation of Christmas means that many people in the Western World are under the misapprehension that Christmas is somehow more important. It is not. Whilst it is important to approach Christmas with the due reverence it deserves, and to focus on the Nativity as told to us in the Gospels of St Luke and St Matthew, it is one element of the greatest story of all, a story which culminates in the triumph over death on Easter Sunday.

It can be difficult to talk to our children about The Passion and Death of Christ. Death is not something that is commonly discussed in young families, and is tied inextricably with grief in our lives. It is important when discussing The Passion to remind children frequently that it was an act of love. Christ loved us all so much that he was able to carry out his Passion for all people, at that moment and forever.

If we approach Easter with the view that it is the greatest expression of love, the fear of death melts away. In the silence of the tomb on Friday we must look forward to Sunday.

Please make sure that your child attends Holy Mass this Eastertide. Whilst we reflect deeply in Lent in school, we are never able to be with the children on Easter Sunday.

A tradition that we observe in my own family is to make sure that we are at home in time to watch The Pope's audience from St Peter's Square. It is a uniting moment for all of us as Christians, and one that reminds us of the universality of the Church.