



The Bishop of Lincoln

Easter 2024

What happens at the beginning of the day? We wake up, we have our breakfast, we go to school. At weekends, we might even get to lie-in!

Something that happens every single day is that the sun rises and a new day begins.

Picture a sunrise in your heads. We start off in darkness, but when the sun rises, it gets brighter and brighter.

In church, thinking about the sunrise helps us think about Easter. Jesus, the Son of God, died on Good Friday, but we believe that on Easter Day he rose to new life.

Just like the sunrise, Easter begins in darkness. Jesus died on the Cross and was buried in a tomb. Darkness turns to light, and in the Easter Story, we discover that the tomb is empty, Jesus is alive and the world is never the same again.

Jesus is like the sunrise at the start of the day: a bright light shining on the world because he is alive.

Darkness and light are found in the whole story of Easter. On Good Friday, the Bible tells us that in the middle of the day it suddenly became dark. When Jesus was taken down from the cross and buried in the tomb, the Bible tells us that this happened in the evening, when the sun is setting. Then, on Easter Day, we hear that some of Jesus' followers go to the tomb and find it empty, at dawn, on the first day of the week.

Darkness giving way to the light: Christians talk about Easter in the same way. We believe that when Christ rose again, he is like a light scattering the shadows – all those things that we say and do which are wrong.

Jesus and his new life changed the world and people's lives for the better. Just like his followers, two thousand years ago, Jesus changes lives today – I know that Jesus changed my life too.

Easter is a wonderful promise from God, that in the darkness there is a light which shines, bringing hope and joy and love to our world.

So, my hope and prayer for you all this Eastertide is this:

...in the darkness, may you see a light shining.

...in sadness, may you know joy and hope.

...in endings, may you discover new beginnings.

Happy Easter!

The Rt Revd Stephen Conway
Bishop of Lincoln