

APRIL 2022 MWI ARTICLE

GOD MATTERS AT EASTER



When April arrives, we feel Spring has sprung with the buds appearing on the trees and our flower beds burst with new life and the sound of the lawn mower can be heard cutting the fresh green grass. I also find it very therapeutic to watch the birds as they come to the bird table to feed. I especially enjoy the robins, black birds and thrushes but to name a few. April promises warmer weather and longer days to enjoy picnics and long walks in our parks and take in God's wonderful creation.

This April we will also celebrate Easter and on the theme of Easter the following children were giving their thoughts on what Easter means to them:

Joe aged eight, said, **"Easter means it is almost like Christmas"**.

Joe feels getting chocolate covered bunnies and eggs, is like getting toys at Christmas. He puts more emphasis on the chocolate treats at this time of year than Jesus.

"Easter means that Jesus walked down the street and people held palm leaves," says Cory aged nine.

Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter, is a time when Christians celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Although Jesus rode a donkey instead of walking. Cory is beginning to recognise that Easter relates to Jesus.

“Easter means new life to me,” says Hilary aged twelve. **“It reminds me of how Christ died for the sake of my soul, and how he rose from the dead. I can testify because of Easter, that my Saviour, Jesus Christ, lives forevermore”.**

Hilary appreciates why as Christians we celebrate Easter!

Easter to me and to many of you is the pinnacle of our Christian faith. It is a time when we reflect on the sacrifice that God made in giving up his only son to die on a cross for the sins of the world which includes you and me. What a sacrifice – what a gift! We rejoice in the resurrection and that Christ is triumphant over death. We can say with the hymn writer, **“Hymns of praise then let us sing, unto Christ, our heavenly King, who endured the cross and grave, sinners to redeem and save”.**

We in MWI are also grateful and excited that the 9th of April will be our first **‘face to face’** meeting for our General and District Officers to meet in person for over two years. Our Central Forum will take place at Jennymount Methodist Church when we hope to meet as a ‘hybrid’ providing zoom facilities as well as ‘face to face’. We are grateful to be offered Jennymount Methodist Church for this occasion and are so excited to move to this new normal. The Executive of MWI will also meet this way on 21st May in Enniskillen Methodist Church, also kindly granted.

Zoom was an extremely useful platform to keep MWI members connected during the last two years but there is no substitute for ‘face to face’ gatherings. Hopefully all of our All Ireland and District events will be back to meeting in person soon. Of course, there is no doubt that there will be times when zoom will be more convenient for some members to connect to MWI events. Zoom will be with us in the future but hopefully not as dominant.

Happy Easter to all. Christ is Risen – He is Risen indeed!

Joan Strong

All-Ireland MWI President