

STORIES OF EASTER



St Paul writing in the first of his letters to Corinth...Chapter 15

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures,
4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures,
5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.
6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.
7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.
8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

This is the earliest written evidence of the resurrection. Paul wrote to the Corinthian church about ten years before St Mark wrote his Gospel in AD 65.

This is what St Mark says about the first Easter Sunday

16:1 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.
2 And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen.
3 And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?"
4 And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; -- it was very large.
5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed.
6 And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him.
7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you."
8 And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.

For Christians the Easter stories are the stories of how Jesus rose from the dead and showed himself to his followers.

All four Gospels have accounts of the resurrection of Jesus. Each Gospel begins with a story of how the women, early on the Sunday morning went to the tomb where Jesus had been buried.

1. Look how the four Gospel stories differ from each other
Matthew 28:1-10 Luke 24:1-11 John 20:1-18

2. Two other resurrection stories you ought to know about are in St Luke 24:13-35 and St John 20:19-29.
Write out a brief account of each of these.

