

10 Tips for Lent and Easter in school



1. Take time to mark the period of Lent from Ash Wednesday to the Easter holidays.

Make a sign or calendar to count the days till Easter itself.

2. Make use of the Prayer Journey through Lent or other Lent resources that mark the journey and recognise it as a significant time in the Church Year.



We do this in Advent with Advent wreaths so we might think of a display for Lent to say this is a special time of waiting. Use the colour purple on the display as that is the church colour used for times of preparation.

3. Hold a school assembly with a focus on the theme of Lent near the start of Lent.

There are a number of assemblies on the website and on <https://www.dcu.ie/church-of-ireland-centre/assemblies-for-schools>

4. Teach the Easter lessons from the Follow Me programme - the lessons are planned to tell the story and are pitched at the age and understanding of the class. Don't assume they know the whole story.



Some teachers worry about telling the story of the death of Jesus, but it is essential to the Easter story and to Christianity as without that event – there is no Easter. Keep it age-appropriate, image appropriate and always make sure the story of Easter follows the story of Good Friday.

5. There are lots of Easter traditions in different countries in the world, explore these with children of different nationalities in your school community. Orthodox churches celebrate Easter at a different time, and many Easter traditions stem from those churches (eg painted eggs).

Some traditions are not as widespread as online resources may suggest.

6. Consider a Lent project such as having a Prayer Wall or Prayer Tree in the classroom.

It is traditional for Christians to mark Lent with spiritual activities in preparation for Easter. Prayers from a prayer tree or prayer wall can be brought to an end of term school assembly as an offering of the prayers from the class.



7. Focus on the Christian symbols of Easter – eggs, crosses, empty tomb, Easter tree, Easter garden.

Be aware that Easter bunnies etc are not part of the religious Easter traditions. This is a knitted Last Supper display.

8. Have an Easter display in the school. An Easter garden would be very appropriate and there are lots of examples online and in Follow Me lessons.

There are also Easter wooden displays available to order which you could add to a classroom display.

Simple displays support our visual telling of the story and are a reminder of the centrality of the Easter story in Christianity.



9. Do have an Easter-themed service/ Assembly at the end of the term. Of course Easter takes place in the middle of the holidays and we are still in the season of Easter when we return to school but it is important we tell the story before we break for holidays (as we do at Christmas).

This may be the only time parents and children hear the story of Easter. Authentic encounter is very important.

10. Many schools have Easter egg hunts. Tell the story of what the Easter egg represents and you could make use of a story trail or clues as part of the activity to link it to the Easter story. There is an Easter trail on the website.

For more resources/ training needs contact Jacqui Wilkinson (Jacqueline.wilkinson@dcu.ie)