

Your local Catholic parish is having  
the following celebrations this Easter:

### An Easter Poem

In John's Gospel (20:11-18), Mary Magdalene wept outside Jesus' empty tomb. She assumed a man standing nearby was the gardener, until he said 'Mary!'

#### *Easter Dawn*

*He blesses every love which weeps and grieves  
And now he blesses hers who stood and wept  
And would not be consoled, or leave her love's  
Last touching place, but watched as low light crept  
Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs  
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.  
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,  
Or recognise the Gardener standing there.  
She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why,  
Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light  
That brightens as she chokes out her reply  
'They took my love away, my day is night'  
And then she hears her name, she hears Love say  
The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.*

(Sounding the Seasons by Malcom Guite. Canterbury Press 2012)

#### Contacting the Catholic Enquiry Centre

If you or someone close to you is interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith, please contact:

Catholic Enquiry Centre  
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**Catholic Enquiry Centre**

Reaching out in faith

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## About Easter

If there is a God, have you ever thought about what kind of God this person might be?

The Bible tells us God is exactly like Jesus, "He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being" (Hebrews 1:3).

But is that who you think God is like?

We inherit different views of God from our culture. Your life will display the picture of God you have in your mind.

### Misconception #1

God is a distant deity. Few Christians would confess that this is the God they believe in, but in every day practice? We live as though God might intercede if we beg him for something we really want or need. But other than on those occasions, we don't really relate to him in any way.

### Misconception #2

God is a demanding judge. This is the God who is involved in our world, but you don't want him to be, because he's always mad at you! If you offend him, he ignores you and you feel you have to grovel to get back into his good books.

### Misconception #3

God is a doting grandparent. This God endorses your every desire. This is a very appealing God to believe in if we recognize the toxicity of having a distant or demanding God. But as we look at the life of Jesus, is this the picture of God he portrayed?

### Misconception #4

God is the micromanager helicopter parent. He's a control freak. This God hovers over you and determines what choices you make.

Jesus never exhibited the above images we might have of God.



## Easter rehabilitates our image of God

Jesus was relentless in helping people take responsibility for themselves. At the Last Supper, Jesus could see Judas was double-minded in his allegiance to him, and perhaps was going to betray him. But rather than remain quiet like a distant deity. Rather than shame him with a finger wag like the demanding judge. Rather than say everything was going to be okay like a doting grandparent. Rather than convince him that this was the wrong choice like a micromanager helicopter parent. Rather than doing any of that, Jesus said to Judas, what you've determined to do, go do it. Make your choice. Own what you want. Just do it.



We see that radical empowering of people from Jesus, who is the exact imprint of God.

Jesus reveals a God who doesn't control people but reveals a God who invites us to make a choice, but then leaves it up to us.

His invitation is empowering.

At Easter, the cross is at the centre of what Jesus' life was all about. His whole life was going toward the cross.

Jesus prayed for his enemies, healed his enemies, died for his enemies.

God's love is cross-shaped.

This is the true image of God, the self-giving, empowering love that God fully revealed in Jesus.

