

#### 7 Mary and the empty tomb

After the crucified body of Jesus was sealed in a tomb, Mary found it empty

#### 10 An ordinary man

Jesus reacted with kindess to Thomas' doubt and disbelief

#### 12 God's story

The power of universal truths



"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."

MATTHEW 28:6 (NIV)



Editorial 12 April 2025

#### What is The Salvation Army?

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church.

#### Vision Statement

Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live, love and fight alongside others to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus.

#### Mission Statement

The Salvation Army is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus by:

- · Caring for people
- · Creating faith pathways
- · Building healthy communities
- · Working for justice

The Salvation Army Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and work and pay our respect to Elders, past, present, and future. We value and include people of all cultures, languages, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and intersex status. We are committed to providing programs that are fully inclusive. We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of people of all ages, particularly children.





Scan here to connect with The Salvation Army services



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#### Forever changed

Millions of people around the world will soon celebrate Easter, in culturally various ways. In Australia, many people go to church, others join in Easter egg hunts, get away for the four-day holiday or relax with family and friends.

Easter offers the reality of hope, new life and God's constant presence. The deep joy of spiritual freedom and assured hope can seem almost impossible in these challenging times around the world and in our daily lives.

In this edition, we tell the story of Easter from the perspective of some of the key players – how they experienced the events around the death and resurrection of Jesus, what it meant to them, how it changed the world – and can change our lives today.

Jesus willingly came to earth, lived and died for us, and each of us can now experience his ongoing work of liberation, restoration and healing.

To learn more about Easter, to connect with the Salvos or get help from Salvos services, go to

salvationarmy.org.au/ourfaith/easter. Happy Easter!

Simone Worthing **Editor** 

## Find Easter events and services at a Salvos near you



Across Australia, Salvation Army churches and community groups gather at Easter to remember Jesus' death on the cross and him rising back to life. Jesus' death was an act of sacrificial love and because Jesus came back alive, he offers us everlasting hope. Find local Salvos Easter events and services near you and experience the true meaning of Easter and the good news it brings.

Many churches host Easter worship services on Palm Sunday 13 April, Good Friday 18 April and/or Easter Sunday 20 April.

Other churches may host a community gathering on Easter Saturday 19 March or fun days throughout the Easter period.



For more information, go to salvationarmy.org.au/our-faith/easter or scan the QR code.

#### **Need help this Easter?**

If times are tough this Easter — whether you're struggling financially to put food on the table or need help to pay your bills or control your debt — we're here to help. Don't face these challenges alone; reach out to The Salvation Army for compassionate and confidential support this Easter.

## Emergency contact numbers If you need help at any time, especially over the holidays pleas

especially over the holidays, please contact:

For emergency assistance if your life, or someone else's, is in danger:

Salvation Army general enquiries: 13 SALVOS (13 72 58)

National Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Helpline (24 hours): 1800 737 732 (1800 Respect)

Lifeline:

131 114

Kids helpline:

1800 55 1800

Beyond Blue:

1300 22 4636

Suicide Call Back Service:

1300 659 467

MensLine Australia:

1300 78 99 78



## EASTER: SETTING THE SCENE

#### Jesus is crucified

"When the soldiers had finished making fun of Jesus ... [they] ... led him off to be nailed to a cross ...

"They came to a place named Golgotha, which means 'Place of a Skull.' There they gave Jesus some wine mixed with a drug to ease the pain. But when Jesus tasted what it was, he refused to drink it.

"The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross and gambled to see who would get his clothes... Above his head they put a sign that told why he was nailed there. It read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

"People who passed by

said terrible things about Jesus ... The chief priests, the leaders, and the teachers of the Law of Moses also made fun of Jesus ...

"At noon the sky turned dark and stayed that way until three o'clock. Then about that time Jesus shouted, 'Eli, Eli, Iema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' ...

"At once the curtain in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, and rocks split apart. Graves opened, and many of God's people were raised to life ...

"The officer and the soldiers guarding Jesus felt the earthquake and saw everything else that happened. They were frightened and said, 'This man really was God's Son!'" (Taken from Matthew chapter 27, verses 31-54).

To read the full story of Jesus' crucifixion, go to Matthew chapter 27, Mark chapter 15, Luke chapter 23 and John chapter 19. The preceding chapters in these gospel accounts give some background to the crucifixion, and the following chapters explore Jesus' resurrection and beyond.

## THE DAY OF WAITING Stories by Faye Michelson

We locked the doors, fearing the Jewish leaders would come looking for us disciples. The air, heavy with grief and desolation, pressed down on us like a weight.

Joseph of Arimathea had taken Jesus' body from the cross. He and Nicodemus had wrapped it in linen and put it in a tomb he owned, cut out of a rock. Some of the women had followed them and knew where it was. But now it was the Sabbath and none of us could do anything. Tomorrow the women would prepare the spices and perfumes to embalm his body.

My God! My God! His body. A wave of panic swept over me. Our beloved leader, our rabbi, was dead.

Peter put a hand on my arm. "Here John, have some water."

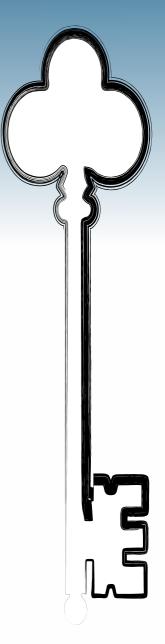
#### **Recalling events**

His face was ravaged. How many times had he told me, weeping bitterly, that on the night of Jesus' arrest he had lied. How he had told three people on separate occasions that he didn't even know Jesus. Peter had abandoned him, the leader he loved so much, the leader he had followed everywhere for three years. And worse, we all knew Jesus had predicted at our last meal together that Peter would do exactly that.

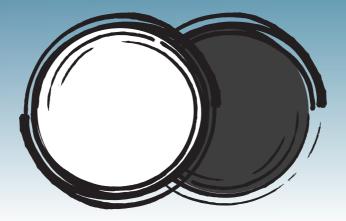
I closed my eyes. The events of the past few days crowded in. I pictured us all at that final meal, then going with Jesus afterwards to Gethsemane while he prayed. I remember how Jesus had woken us because we'd dozed off. and then the crowd, armed with swords and clubs, had arrived. They surrounded Jesus, and in my mind I could see with awful clarity what happened next. I could hardly bear it. Judas - one of us - was part of that crowd. He stepped out and kissed Jesus. The kiss of betrayal.

Then the cross. Will that image of Jesus on the cross ever leave my mind?

And now. What will happen now?



## MARY AND THE EMPTY TOMB



Grief makes you numb. It's a blessing, because you can do what you need to do without feeling anything.

We had to go to the tomb, Mary and I [Mary Magdalene]. We hadn't slept, so as soon as the first light of morning appeared we walked to the place where Joseph had placed the dead body of Jesus. Neither of us spoke. There were no words to say.

As we approached the tomb, flanked by soldiers guarding the huge rock sealing the entrance, the ground began to shake. The earth tremor was so strong we almost lost our footing; then there was a sudden flash of blinding

light. I thought it was lightning but as my eyes adjusted, I saw a brilliantly shining figure rolling the rock away from the tomb. A messenger from God.

The soldiers, like us, were terrified, our eyes throbbing from the dazzling light around us. Then they just fell to the ground, motionless like they were dead.

The messenger sat on the rock and spoke to us. "Don't be frightened. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified, but he isn't here. He has come back to life again, just as he said he would. Come and see where his body was lying, then

go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and that he is going to Galilee to meet them there"

We turned and ran, at first full of shock and fright, but as the messenger's words sank in, a deep joy welled up in us both. Then our path was blocked by a man standing in front of us. As he greeted us, we knew who he was and we fell at his feet, weeping and worshipping him.

"Don't be frightened,"
Jesus told us. "Go and
tell my brothers to go to
Galilee. They'll see me
there" (Matthew Chapter
28 yerses 1-10).

Salvos Magazine



## THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Here we are, on our way back to Jerusalem already. How quickly we are walking now! Our feet seem to have wings, our hearts burning with exhilaration.

So different to this morning. Cleopas and I had left our friends in Jerusalem to set out for Emmaus, walking slowly as we talked over what had happened. We were so wrapped in our grief that we hadn't noticed

the traveller coming up behind us. He fell in step beside us and asked what we were discussing.

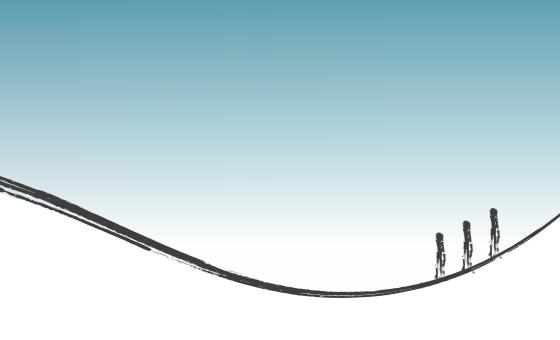
Cleopas had stopped walking, incredulous. "Are you the only person in Jerusalem who doesn't know what's happened there?"

"What are you talking about?"

And so, as we walked, we told him about Jesus of

Nazareth, a prophet from God whose miracles and powerful messages amazed all, and how the people believed in him. We told our companion, voices shaking, how the chief priests had handed him over to be nailed to a cross. Jesus, the one we had hoped was the Messiah.

We told him about the women who had gone to his tomb this morning and found it empty, how



angels had told them that Jesus was alive. We told him how some of our group had rushed there and yes, it was as they'd said. Jesus was not there.

Our companion had replied, "You are very slow to believe everything God's prophets said long ago. You should have known that the Messiah had to die. Only then would he return to heaven and show how powerful he is."

Then we had listened, enthralled, as he explained what Moses and all God's prophets had taught about the Messiah.

The sun was low on the horizon when we walked into Emmaus, so we urged our companion to stay the night with us. As we sat down to eat, he took the bread, thanked God for it and broke it into pieces. As he gave some to each of us, the most incredible

thing happened. It was as if somehow our eyes were cleared to allow us to really see our guest. As soon as we recognised him, he was gone.

And so are we, on our way back to Jerusalem, our hearts blazing with excitement, to tell our friends we have seen him. We have seen the Lord. (Luke chapter 24, verses 13-35).

## THOMAS, AN ORDINARY MAN



I am Thomas, an ordinary man, but how the past few years with the Lord have changed me. I have seen many miracles, I have heard the words of God come from his mouth, I have experienced that incredible sense of being a part of something greater than myself – than us all – while walking alongside him. And then ... the crucifixion ...

A few days after that terrible time, the others said they had seen him, that he had risen from the dead as he said he would. I was not with them when they say Jesus appeared to them. I know they're not liars – I've spent the past three years of my life

with these men. But how could I believe something like this without seeing it myself? I am just an ordinary man.

How I wished I had been with them when they saw the Lord. Doubt is exhausting, like a constant pain throbbing at the back of your mind. I wanted so much to believe, but I knew that unless I saw and touched the nail marks in his hands and put my hand where the spear went into his side, I couldn't believe. I just couldn't.

Then, a few days later, I was with the other disciples and Jesus came and stood among us. I froze.

"Peace be with you, my friends," he said, then turned to me, holding out his hands, palm upwards. His voice was kind. 'Thomas, see my hands? Touch the scars. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

I didn't do any of those things. "My Lord and my God," I whispered, and knelt before him.

Jesus helped me to my feet. "You believe because you have seen me. But blessed are those who haven't seen me and believe anyway" (John chapter 20, verses 24-29).

## A BARBECUE ON THE BEACH

"John, I'm going fishing."

Peter, bless him, always gravitated back to fishing when he was stressed.
And the last few weeks had been truly horrific – and yet truly amazing.
We'd seen Jesus die and then – well, it was a lot to process. Twice now he had appeared to us, risen from death as he had promised.
The Lord was alive!

We were at Lake Galilee, not sure what to do with ourselves. Fishing was as good as anything, so as night fell the seven of us set out into the familiar waters. It was a healing time in a way, hours on the lake in the dark, talking sometimes, silent sometimes. Strangely, though, we caught nothing.

As dawn streaked the sky, we saw the figure of a man on the beach. We were close to shore, about 100m out, so his voice reached us easily. "Have you caught anything, friends?"

"Nothing!" Peter called back

"Let your net down on the right-hand side of your

boat!" the man shouted.

We looked at each other in surprise but did as he said. Immediately, the net grew heavy. It was full of fish.

As we tried to heave the net onto the boat, I looked back at the figure on the beach. Could it be? Breathless, I grabbed Peter. "That man is the Lord!"

Peter, being Peter, wasted no time. He jumped into the water and swam to him. We did our best to drag in the full net and finally made it back. When we came ashore, we saw fish cooking over a charcoal fire, and bread.

"Bring some of the fish you just caught," Jesus said, tending the fire.

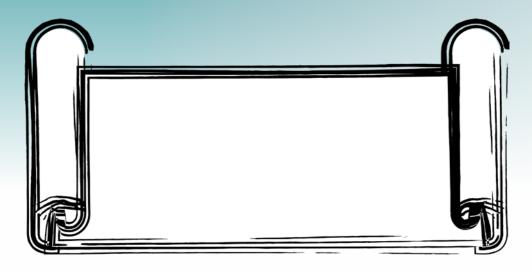
Peter, energised, helped us drag the net ashore – there were 153 large fish in it! No-one asked Jesus to reassure us that it really was him. We knew.

Our Lord handed us some bread and freshly barbecued fish. "Come," he said. "Let's eat" (John chapter 21, verses 1-17).





# THE STORY THAT CHANGED THE WORLD by Grant Sandercock-Brown



#### John reminiscing

I remember writing their stories in my book like it was vesterday. Thomas. Peter. Jesus' amazing mother Mary, Mary of Magdala. I can see them so clearly in my mind's eye. When I say my book, I mean John's gospel. That's what vou call it now. Of course. I wrote the book decades after it all happened: after the astonishing Jesus event. I mean. Those three extraordinary years when I knew him. No-one forgets

events like that – watching him heal a blind man, him washing our feet, that awful day of the cross, that amazing day of resurrection.

I needed to record their stories because we weren't all there for some of the biggest moments. I was at the cross, but the rest of the men had run away. You'd understand, of course, that we were scared to death, scared of death. The Romans were pitiless and brutal. And

the crucifixion was a day of horror. Looking back, I'm sure the men wish they'd been like the brave women who loved him and followed him and were there to witness his agony.

For some time, I thought of the cross with shame, and I wasn't the only one. Not just because of the cowardice, but because it was a dishonourable criminal's death. Of course, as my friend Paul explained, it wasn't a shameful death at all, but

rather a demonstration of love. But it can be hard to understand an experience like the crucifixion straightaway. And now? It gladdens my heart that so many of you wear a cross so visibly. I see the cross everywhere, around people's necks, hanging from their ears, sometimes tattooed on their body. I'm not sure what it means to them. Not exactly what it means to me, I would quess, but I'm sure it means something.

None of us men were the first to see our risen Lord. That was Mary of Magdala. Words fail me when I think of the absolute joy shining from her face as she ran to us and said, "I have seen the Lord." Wow. That changed everything. I mean, if Jesus' death was agonised sorrow, his resurrection was amazed joy. Incredibly hard to believe joy, but joy all the same.

And I get that it is hard to believe. Their stories.

my story, can leave you shaking your head, lifting your eyes to the heavens, or even falling to your knees. It is extraordinary I know. But I'm not boasting when I say this story changed the world. I don't think anybody would deny that.

And I think this Jesus story changed the world because in it we see the deepest, most universal truths: the power of sacrificial love to heal us, the power of forgiveness to redeem us. And yes, the truth of a creator God who gave us Jesus because he loves us. (I wrote about that in my most famous verse, John chapter 3, verse 16).

And if you believe this story, trust the God who is its author, then God's story becomes your story too, and the story that changed the world will change you in ways you won't believe.

Major Grant Sandercock-Brown is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in NSW. the world because in it we see the deepest, most universal truths...

Taste of Life

#### Lemon-herbed pasta



#### Ingredients

1 cup risoni pasta, ¼ cup pasta cooking water, 1½ tsp finely sliced lemon peel, 1 tbsp chopped basil, 1 tbsp chopped chives, 2 tsp chopped thyme, salt and pepper to taste

#### Method

Cook pasta to package directions. Drain pasta, putting aside % cup of the water.

Return pasta and the ¼ cup of water to saucepan. Add lemon peel, basil, chives, thyme and salt and pepper. Stir over medium heat until water is absorbed. Serve warm.



#### Believe in Good: Tips

God planned for us to do good things and to live as he has always wanted us to live. This is why he sent Christ to make us what we are – Ephesians chapter 2, verse 10 (Contemporary English Version)

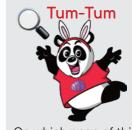
What good things can you do this Easter?



#### Quiz



- Which artist painted Café Terrace at Night, The Potato Eaters and Irises?
- 2. What is the real title of Salvador Dali's 'melting clocks' painting?
- 3. In which city is the Louvre located?
- 4. What is the correct historical order of the following art styles: romanticism, photorealism, expressionism?
- 5. Who painted The Last Supper?



On which page of this week's Salvos Magazine is Tum-Tum hiding?

Take Five 12 April 2025



#### Have a laugh

### What did the canvas say to the paint?

Stop brushing me off.

Why was the art student staring at an empty piece of paper?

l hey were drawing a blank.

### What did the art thief say to the museum curator?

Give me all your Monet.

### Did you see the display of still-life art?

It wasn't at all moving.

### ?

#### Did you know?

The Easter bunny legend began in Germany.

More than 1.5 million Cadbury crème eggs are produced every day.

The tradition of painting eggs originates from Ukraine.

The UK's first chocolate egg was produced in Bristol in 1873.



#### **Answers**

Tum-Tum: is hiding behind the blue paint on page 14.

Quiz: 1. Vincent van Gogh 2. The Persistence of Memory. 3. Paris 4. Romanticism, expressionism, photorealism 5. Leonardo da Vinci



GRE Α D L 0 V U Ε O V G B C R L Н GE N Υ В W W C G Χ Α C Ν OMVL Т Н Q S ONE - 1 R Χ R П C Ε 0 - 1 Χ E Q N URRE C 0 CROS SO C Ν Ε S ВА Q J L Y R C D

Words are hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, forwards and backwards. Enjoy!

Alive	Eternal	Palm Sunday
Angel	Faith	Resurrection
Celebration	Holy	Risen
Christ	Hope	Sacrifice
Cross	Jesus	Salvation
Crucifixion	Joy	Stone
Disciples	Love	Sunday
Easter	Miracle	Tomb



#### Bible byte

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John chapter 8, verse 12 New International Version

## **LOOKING FOR A GIFT IDEA?**



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Using pop culture in a way that is relevant, positive and educational the mag features competitions, video game news, Bible stories, cartoons, puzzles and activities.

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