Hello Everyone & Alleluia! Some of you are learning in school, and many of you are learning at home.



I am spending a lot more time working from home at the moment too, and that takes a bit of getting used to doesn't it? But part of what I do every day is remember our Church and School family and pray for you all. That helps to make me feel a little closer to you all, as well as to God! **Rev'd Carolyn** 

Eastertide or the **Season of Easter** continues. Who can remember for how many days? And how far through all those days are we now, I wonder?







Eastertide lasts for 50 days. So on the next slide rather than counting our eggs from 1 to 50, I am going to name them by the dates of the month, to see how far through our Easter journey we have come. If you can find the correct date you will be able to see for yourself.



Did you see the little egg with a yellow star on the top of it, on the last slide?

That was the day that I prepared this for you.

I wonder which egg you would need to put a star on, to show the day it is today?





Here are some pictures of people and windows. How do they make you feel? What do you think the people in the photos might be thinking?





## What about these?

Are your answers different from last time? If so, why?



## What about these?

What do you think this boy is thinking or feeling? And this elderly lady – what might she be thinking or feeling?







What is this man doing? Why might that be?





All of the people in those photos were inside, looking out. But you might have said very different things about how they were feeling, or what they were thinking, or what you imagined they were doing?

At the moment lots of people feel that they are spending a lot of time inside, looking out.

They too will be feeling and thinking and doing very different things?



There is a **Story in the Bible** which we tell in this season of Easter, became it is the story of the first friends of Jesus and what happened to them after that very first Easter Day.

They did not know what to make of Jesus and of how he had died and then risen again. They didn't know whether to believe it or doubt it. They didn't know what to do next. They didn't know how other people would look at them and feel about them – because they were friends of this man Jesus.... So what they did was this...

They shut themselves away in an upstairs room.

They were anxious about the future. They were a bit frightened & suspicious of others. They were lonely.

They wanted everything to go back to normal.

But it didn't feel normal. So they shut themselves inside, and looked out on a world which felt like it had changed, and that scared them...

## St John's Gospel tells us the story like this...

(you can find it in John Chapter 20 verse 19 onwards)

It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders.



Then Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." Have a think and try and imagine what those first friends of Jesus felt like at the beginning of the story we read in John's Gospel.



Then think and try and imagine how they felt at the end of the story we read in John's Gospel.

## What had made the difference?









Think back to what you said the people in our photos might be thinking and feeling.

Say a prayer for one of these people, or for someone you know who is inside looking out.









**Remember our special window.** When we gather inside our church, it is one of our special place. We can't look out of our window but it looks in at us. And Jesus looks at us and says whatever you are feeling, 'I am with you', and however wonderful or however scary the world is, he comes to say "Peace be with you"





Lord God where children feel shut in and want to go out to play, give them your peace. Where someone today feels lonely and wants to see a friendly face, give them your peace. Where people feel anxious about the future, and need some encouragement, give them your peace. Amen. (you might like to add a line of your own to this prayer.)

