

The Shuttle



Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

Easter traditions

Rev Sarah Hobba
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The Easter break will have different traditions for people throughout our society. For some, this weekend may be about getting away and having a rest, for others, it may be about family and food, while for others it may include an annual trip to the Royal Easter Show. The major food chains have been preparing us for our Easter traditions since Boxing Day, which is when Easter eggs and hot cross buns first appear on the shelves. It is interesting to think about how these traditions have become a part of our lives.

For Christians, traditions of Easter have their origins in the biblical accounts of Jesus in the Gospels. Some obvious traditions can include eating lamb on the Thursday before Good Friday as Jesus ate his last supper Passover meal with his disciples; eating fish as Jesus ate fish with his disciples after his resurrection; and, of course, eggs being seen as a sign of new life found through belief in Jesus. Many other traditions with less biblical origins have been fashioned over time within different cultures and include such things as rabbits and the Easter Bunny.

Other legacies that are held dear in Western society also find their roots in the first Easter story. The distinguished secular historian, Tom Holland (not the actor who plays Peter Parker) states in his book *Dominion*, that the Cross "is the principal reason why, by and large, most of us who live in post-Christian societies still take for granted that it is nobler to suffer than to inflict suffering." Likewise, when referring to the Western values of equality and all human life having inherent value, late secular sociologist Rodney Starks, author of *The Rise of Christianity* stated that Roman society "was a brutal world and Christianity provided a very secure haven of humanity for people and it's not really surprising that that was attractive." The attraction for many followers of Jesus in those early years came in part from how Jesus transformed views about status with the messages to 'love enemies', and 'the first shall be last and the last shall be first', and then his friendship with the outcasts of society.



The symbol of the cross is central to that first Easter. The cross to Romans was a symbol of humiliation and embarrassment. In Jesus dying such an embarrassing death, he identifies with all those experiences of human frailty and pain, willingly suffering on behalf of others. His punishment is cruel and unjust as he has done nothing wrong (Hebrews 4:15). Today, unfortunately for many, the cross has come to represent prestige or powerful institutions that have deeply hurt humans through oppression, abuse and colonisation. Indeed, throughout history, many Christians and Christianity have not been exemplars of Jesus' teachings and life.

In saying this, Tom Holland still holds that the power of the cross transformed the ancient world into what we see today, "So profound has been the impact of Christianity on the development of Western Civilisation that it has come to be hidden from view." (*Dominion*) Many human rights, concepts of justice, respect and compassion can be seen as having foundations in the death and resurrection of Jesus. These are also values to which we hold firmly in our Abbotsleigh community, and we hope that our girls exemplify.

Tom Holland's podcast, *The Rest is History*, which he co-hosts with Dominic Sandbrook, is the world's most popular history podcast. While as a secular historian he is uncertain of the 'supernatural' elements of Christianity, he and other historians confirm that a man named Jesus lived, he died by crucifixion and that afterwards, certainly his followers experienced something that they believed was the resurrection of Jesus, such that it radically transformed their lives and spread the message of Jesus. For further interest in this area, these podcasts may be a source of investigation.

[The Rest is History – Episode 287: Jesus Christ: The Mystery](#)

[The Rest is History – Episode 288: Jesus Christ: The History](#)



Chaplain

Celebrating Easter

Rev Sarah Hobba
Chaplain

Our Easter Services play an important part of our traditions at Abbotsleigh, bringing our community together to reflect on the centrality of the death and resurrection of Jesus. With our Brave the Waves Prefect theme, the Senior School Easter Service reflected on Jesus' words to his disciples the night before he died in John 16:33, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Jesus then overcomes the world in his resurrection, where he eats a breakfast meal with his disciples on the beach in John 21. The great story is that death is overcome, as Isaiah 25:8 says, "he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces." This is the great hope of the

Christian message that brings life and hope to many through adversity. Our Junior School Easter Services also reminded us of the historicity of the events of Jesus, and that more than 500 people were witnesses to his resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:6).

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas (Peter), and then to the Twelve. ⁶After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸and last of all he appeared to me.

Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

Easter Monday	Monday 1 April	Public holiday
Landscape, Existence – Julien Playoust	4 to 27 April	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery, Senior School
Term 1 concludes	Thursday 11 April	

JUNIOR SCHOOL

T-6 Parent Teacher Interviews	Tuesday 2 to Thursday 4 April	Junior School
IPSHA Cross Country training	Tuesday 2 April 7.15-8 am	Junior School

ELC Excursion to ACEE	Tuesday 2 April 8.30 am-2.30 pm	Abbotsleigh Centre for Environmental Education
Year 5 netball and minkey trials	Wednesday 3 April 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
IPSHA Cross Country training	Thursday 4 April 7.15-8 am	Junior School
Year 3 Taronga Zoo excursion	Thursday 4 April 8.30 am-3 pm	Taronga Zoo
Years 3 and 4 netball and minkey trials	Thursday 4 April 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
JS Production rehearsal	Friday 5 April 3.30-5.30 pm	Everett Hall
ISDA debating	Friday 5 April 4-9 pm	Abbotsleigh vs St Aloysius (home)
IPSHA Cross Country Carnival	Saturday 6 April 8 am-12 noon	The King's School, Parramatta
JS Production rehearsal	Saturday 6 April 2-4.30 pm	Everett Hall
Year 6 netball and minkey trials	Monday 8 April 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
Transition excursion to ACEE	Tuesday 9 April 8.30 am-2.30 pm	Abbotsleigh Centre for Environmental Education
Year 6 Public Speaking Competition	Tuesday 9 April 2-3 pm	Everett Hall
Year 5 netball and minkey trials	Wednesday 10 April 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
PSSA Swimming and Diving Carnival	Thursday 11 April 8 am-3 pm	SOPAC
JS House Cup, Picnic and Colour Run	Thursday 11 April 12.45-3 pm	Infants Amphitheatre
Abbotsleigh Kids Club Vacation Care	Friday 12 to Monday 29 April 7.15 am-6 pm	Click here for the program

SENIOR SCHOOL

Year 12 Geography field trip	Tuesday 2 to Thursday 4 April	Snowy Mountains
Bunda Parents Evening	Tuesday 2 April 5-6.30 pm	GLC, Senior School
Year 7 Landscapes and Landforms field trip	Wednesday 3 April 3.20-4.30 pm	Katoomba

AOGU Generations Breakfast	Friday 5 April 7-8.30 am	Outside Junior School Library
House Cross Country Carnival	Friday 5 April 12.30-3.20 pm	Senior School grounds and surrounds
ISDA Debating Round 7	Friday 5 April	
Years 8-12 portrait and group photos	Monday 8 April 8.20 am-2 pm	
Lipman Abbotsleigh Women in Construction Breakfast	Tuesday 9 April 7-8.15 am	Dining Hall, Senior School
Year 11 Elective Music Soirée	Wednesday 10 April 6.30-8 pm	PDCH
Year 9 Drama excursion to <i>Medea</i>	Thursday 11 April 8.30 am-3.25 pm	Riverside Theatre