

JPC Faith Posts #01 - Friday Faith

So, we have just had our strangest Easter ever: no going away, no family gatherings, no footy, no going to church, and probably less Easter eggs than usual. But the lockdown continues, and many of us will still be staying at home. For those of us who have kids, they will still be at home either doing school on the internet or being on holidays.

All of us are suffering in some way at the moment. We're stuck at home, the kids are stuck at home, maybe we have been laid off, or are working less. We wonder just how long the lockdown will continue.

So, it's a time for patience and for waiting. Thinking about the meaning of Easter can help us to be patient and wait. Easter is about hope. It shows that pain and suffering do come to an end. Jesus did die, but then he rose and lived with new life. It also shows us that pain and suffering can transform people. At a time like this our community becomes concerned about the mental health of people who are isolated or finding life too hard. The message of Easter is that Jesus is with us at times like this, and that we can be transformed — not to become more frightened or anxious or focussed just on ourselves, but that he can give us peace, strength, and the ability to reach out to others, to love and support them.

At times like this, it is easy to develop a negative attitude, to be focussed on what we are missing out on, and on our own frustrations. Hope is a precious gift that God gives us to help us at this time. So, don't forget the value of prayer now, and remember to ask God to strengthen your hope, and give you and your loved ones the grace and strength you need.