



## The Bishop of Lincoln

Easter 2024

What happens at the start of the day? We wake up, we eat breakfast, we go to school. At weekends, we might even stay in bed a bit longer!

At the start of the day, the sun rises in the sky and a new day begins.

Think about the sunrise. First, everything is dark, but then the sun rises, and it gets brighter and brighter.

In church, thinking about the sunrise helps us think about Easter. Jesus, the Son of God, died on Good Friday, but we believe that on Easter Day he lived again.

Just like the sunrise, Easter begins in darkness. Jesus died on the Cross and was buried in a garden. But in the light of the Easter Story, we learn that Jesus is alive and the world is never the same again.

Jesus is like the sunrise: a bright light shining on the world because he is alive.

The Easter Story is full of dark and light. On Good Friday, the Bible tells us that in the middle of the day it suddenly became dark. When Jesus was taken down from the cross and buried in the garden, the Bible tells us that it happened as the sun is going down. Then, on Easter Day, we hear that some of Jesus' friends go to the garden at the beginning of the day.

Night and day. Dark and light. Christians talk about Easter in the same way. Jesus is like a light chasing away the shadows – taking away all those bad things which we say and do. Things which make us and God sad.

Easter is a wonderful promise from God, a promise of light shining in our lives, bringing hope and joy and love.

So, my hope and prayer for you all this Eastertide is this:

...when it's dark, may you see a light shining.

...when you are feeling sad, may you know happiness and love.

...when something comes to an end, may you find a brand new start.

Happy Easter!

The Rt Revd Stephen Conway  
Bishop of Lincoln