

Great Easter Trail 2021



International Headquarters is encouraging the use of creative storytelling in bringing the Easter message to communities around the world.

What?

In many countries, Easter 2021 is likely to be subject to restrictions on gathering and movement, as the fight against COVID-19 continues. Against this backdrop, it is still important to share the hope and life-giving power of the Easter message – even when it is not possible to undertake public witness and worship in the usual ways.

It's back to basics – bringing the Bible to where people are, in a way that will engage, encourage and challenge them!

How?

We're asking you to create the Stations of the Cross in your local area – a Great Easter Trail of artistic representations showing aspects of the Easter narrative. These may be large-scale or small-scale, using a single style of artwork or (better still) many.

Each station of artwork in and of itself provides passers-by with an opportunity to pause, reflect and consider the truth of the gospel message. While it's not a requirement, corps might wish to link two or more stations together, to form a trail. Maps or instructions of how to find subsequent stations can be made available in printed form or on a local website. But whether you create one or many, we're confident people will be affected by their encounter with the gospel!

Because of the varying regulations from location to location, IHQ will not be prescriptive. It is not mandatory to join in. It is not essential that the trail takes any specific format. We do, however, hope that the following gives some inspiration for sharing the Easter message in a creative and engaging way.

Social media

The station should encourage members of the public to share photos of their Great Easter Trail encounter on social media, so – where appropriate – please include the hashtag [#GreatEasterTrail](#) somewhere visible in or next to the artwork.

This will also ensure that the Easter message is shared beyond those who directly encounter each station, maximising the Kingdom impact.

Where?

Ideally, to ensure social distancing and limit the opportunity for large groups gathering, the stations would be spread throughout a neighbourhood – for example in the corps car park/parking lot, in front windows or gardens belonging to members of the corps or supporters, on balconies or in public spaces where appropriate permission has been sought. In a nutshell, anywhere that people might be passing by as they undertake their daily business, permitted exercise or essential visit to local shops.

All COVID-19 regulations should be followed – in spirit as well as to the letter of the law. People should not be encouraged – either directly or implicitly – to breach any local ordinances. It might be appropriate to ensure a supply of hand sanitiser and/or wipes at each location, and messaging reinforcing social distancing requirements.

Who?

We know of the inexhaustible creativity, gifting and talents that exist within Salvation Army corps right around the world. This is their moment! In the lead up to Easter, we would like to encourage anyone with artistic ability to create something that depicts part of the Easter story.

Be empowered to be as diverse in this remit as possible. Ideas include:

- Painting/drawing – realistic and abstract
- Sculpture
- Woodcarving/whittling
- Knitted/fabric models
- Collage
- Papier mâché/clay/Plasticine/wireframe models
- Origami
- Digital art (displayed via PowerPoint on a screen in a window, for example)
- Video montages
- Lego/Meccano
- Large-scale physical scenes made from wood, metal, hay or other materials
- Mannequins/scarecrows
- Graffiti/spray paints

...but be as creative as possible, using styles, techniques and approaches that will surprise, delight and make people think.

Inspiration

You are free to explore your selected station(s) however you wish. The following examples of Easter creativity give you a flavour of the possibilities. Use them to inspire, but do not feel you need to copy – be imaginative!



Le Tombeau Vide (The Empty Tomb) © Vie de Jesus MAFA, 24, rue de Marechal Joffre, 78000 VERSAILLES, France. www.jesusmafa.com – illustrating John 20. <https://www.maristmessenger.co.nz/2012/04/01/sunday-the-day-of-the-resurrection/>



The Brick Testament uses Lego to bring Matthew 26:20 to life in model form. http://thebricktestament.com/the_life_of_jesus/the_last_supper/mt26_20.html



A public video illustrating John 19:16-18. See this video at sar.my/jesuscarriesthecross

Stations of the Cross

You can choose whichever moments of the Easter story you wish to, but you may find the Stations of the Cross to be helpful. Remember, you can combine particular moments, or find new ones.

Should the full 14 Stations of the Cross be used, the scenes would traditionally be:

- Jesus prays (*Luke 22:39-46*)
- Jesus betrayed by Judas (*Luke 22:47-48*)
- Jesus condemned (*Matthew 26:57-67*)
- Jesus denied (*Luke 22:55-62*)
- Jesus judged (*Matthew 27:11-26*)
- Jesus crowned with thorns (*Matthew 27:27-31*)
- Jesus takes up the Cross (*John 19:16-18*)
- Jesus helped by Simon of Cyrene (*Luke 23:26-27*)
- Jesus meets the women (*Luke 23:28-31*)
- Jesus crucified (*Luke 23:32-38*)
- Jesus forgives the repentant thief (*Luke 23:39-43*)
- Jesus entrust Mary and John to each other (*John 19:25-27*)
- Jesus dies (*Luke 23:44-49*)
- Jesus laid in the tomb (*Luke 23:50-56*)

Additional stations might include the Last Supper, the empty tomb, a risen Jesus meeting the women, etc.

When?

Good Friday is on [2 April 2021](#), and we would recommend that the trail is available at least over the Easter weekend. Dates can be agreed and communicated locally. The period of Lent can be used for the artists to devise and create their works.

Subject to local regulations, there may be opportunities for inviting local media channels to highlight the temporary Easter art trails – many local radio stations, TV news outlets and newspapers would potentially be interested in hearing from artists within their communities, particularly when tied in with a major Christian festival.

Why?

Art resonates. Made in the image of our Creator God, we are creative individuals. An artist wants to express

a message but is equally interested, if not more so, in stimulating a response from the audience. Art is not only about the artist but on how the piece is interpreted and how the Holy Spirit can speak to you as well.

Using the creative arts – in the widest sense – means that we can communicate powerfully with people, on a deeply personal level. Art often leaves a lasting impression, perhaps bringing up memories and prompts many weeks or months after encountering the work. Art is also an ideal means of sharing stories during this time of pandemic when face-to-face communication is not possible.

Share

We would love to see your Great Easter Trail.

Please share photos with us on social media, using [#GreatEasterTrail](#) and email details to IHQ-Communications@salvationarmy.org

Find resources and how others are responding to this challenge at sar.my/easter2021

