

# Faith and Hope for 2021

BBC unveils plans to support faith communities and mark key festivals across its networks this spring



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Published: 11:00 am, 17 March 2021

Updated: 1:00 pm, 17 March 2021

**“We have lived through an extraordinary year that has demonstrated more than ever the importance of faith and religion in many people’s lives and that has been reflected in large audiences coming to our religious programming.”**

— Daisy Scalchi

- More content than ever before to mark Easter, including the first ever collaboration between BBC One, BBC Radio 4 and local radio to bring audiences a live service with the Archbishop of Canterbury from Canterbury Cathedral
- Other faith festivals to be marked in the coming weeks include Passover, Holi, Ramadan, Vaisakhi, Wesak Day and Eid with content on TV, radio and digital

- New commissions announced today include new five-part BBC One series exploring what faith means around seminal life moments for individuals in Sikh, Hindu, Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities

As we approach the anniversary of the first lockdown, faith communities are preparing to mark key celebrations under Covid restrictions for a second time. The BBC is announcing a range of dedicated content across its networks under the heading Faith and Hope for Spring 2021, enabling faith communities to reflect on the past year and the challenges faced, but also to look forward with hope and optimism.

Daisy Scalchi, Commissioning Editor, Religion, says: "We have lived through an extraordinary year that has demonstrated more than ever the importance of faith and religion in many people's lives and that has been reflected in large audiences coming to our religious programming. As faith communities prepare to mark key festivals under covid restrictions for a second time this spring, the BBC has joined up as never before to bring audiences a range of content that I hope will provide communities of all faiths and none the opportunity to come together and reflect as well as look ahead with hope and optimism."

Tim Pemberton, Head of Religion & Ethics, BBC Audio says: "It's been great seeing the response of the audience to our content throughout the pandemic. We have become even more aware of the critical role that religious programmes play in the lives of so many people who have listened to more of our content than ever before. We plan to continue delivering high quality programmes for the audience featuring worship, music and factual stories over the coming years."

EDA

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## Easter



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Credit: Jacqui J. Sze

**"In a year of the deepest grief and loss experienced by so many, I'm delighted to be working with the BBC this Easter to bring to people across the country the hope of Jesus Christ that is ours through the Good News of his resurrection."**

— The Archbishop of Canterbury

There will be more content than ever before to mark Easter across TV and radio including the first-ever collaboration between BBC One, BBC Radio 4, Local Radio, the Church of England and Canterbury Cathedral, as the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby, shares his Easter message live from the stunning setting of Canterbury Cathedral.

Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury says: “In a year of the deepest grief and loss experienced by so many, I’m delighted to be working with the BBC this Easter to bring to people across the country the hope of Jesus Christ that is ours through the Good News of his resurrection. The message of Jesus could not be more timely or important at this very moment: Christ is with us in our suffering, he comforts us in our need and through his resurrection we have living hope - death is conquered and the gift of eternal life with him is offered to all.”

Other highlights include a series of services for the season of Lent introduced by the Rev Kate Bottley; an evening of poetry and music on Good Friday on BBC Radio 2 presented by Dan Walker; the BBC Singers and BBC Concert Orchestra perform the traditional Good Friday concert live on BBC Radio 3; and on BBC One, Urbi et Orbi will show Pope Francis deliver his Easter Message and Blessing live from Rome.

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## Marking other faith festivals this spring

Other festivals from different faiths will be marked in the coming weeks with a range of content across television, radio and digital. BBC Asian Network is reflecting Ramadan, Eid and Vaisakhi with programmes, playlists and parties throughout April and May; there will be a special edition of Celebration Kitchen on BBC One to mark Passover; a new series of Sunday Morning stories reflects stories from across the faiths; and there will be a collection of recipes from different faith festivals on BBC Food.

There will be content across the BBC’s flagship religious strands on TV and radio including Songs of Praise on BBC One, Lent Talks and Thought For The Day on BBC Radio 4 and Heart And Soul on the World Service as well as special features and items on BBC News and on flagship brands including BBC Breakfast, The One Show, Newsround and Saturday Kitchen.

In addition, there will be guests from a range of different faiths across BBC radio networks and worship, reflections, music and readings on the themes of faith and hope on BBC Scotland, BBC Wales and BBC Northern Ireland and on the BBC’s 39 local radio stations.

A collection of the new and archive content will be available under a dedicated rail on BBC iPlayer and there will also be an array of audio content available on BBC Sounds.

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## New series for BBC One - Being...



Being...

A new five-part series for BBC One and iPlayer, *Being...*, explores what faith means around seminal life moments of birth, growing up, marriage and death. The series brings together a collection of personal stories from individuals in Sikh, Hindu, Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities, showing the uniqueness of faith and the universality of major life events.

### **Being Jewish**

12 year old Ethan is preparing for his bar mitzvah, a ceremony that marks his transition into Jewish adulthood. He's chosen to twin his big day with a young boy who died in the Holocaust, to honour his memory.

Jolanda converted to Reform Judaism after meeting Jack. Now they're tying the knot in Spain, in a modern ceremony they've adapted according to their beliefs.

At Bushey cemetery in Hertfordshire, Hilary describes her role as a volunteer who does the tahara, the ritual washing of the deceased before burial. And in North East London, David reflects on his late father's life as he prepares to permanently mark his grave.

### **Being Hindu**

18 year old Samahit is leaving home for the first time to go university. His family travel with him to recite ritual prayers at his halls of residence to bless his new home.

Navi and Karan are getting married in a traditional Sri Lankan Tamil wedding. For the couple, getting married is the only time in their lives they will be elevated to God status.

Priti's father Arvind recently passed away and she wants to carry out his wishes for a traditional Hindu funeral. The ceremony takes place around an open casket and focuses on the journey of the soul.

*Being Jewish* and *Being Hindu* are made by Proper Content. The Executive Producer is David Dehaney and the director is Rachel Dupuy.

### **Being Christian**

Maria and Peter have just welcomed their fifth child in their family. As Roman Catholics they celebrate each new addition as a gift to God and have Baby Audrey Baptised into the church in a traditional Latin service

17 year old Savannah has been raised a Christian and attends Pentecostal Church with her family in Salford. After the death of a friend, Savannah has decided to take the next step in her Christian life and be Baptised in a full immersion water Baptism ceremony.

In Stockton-on-Tees, family and friends pay their last respects to June. As one of the first women to be ordained as priests by the Church of England in 1994, this Anglican service is both traditional and unique as traditions are followed that are unique to funeral services of the clergy.

### **Being Muslim**

Jermaine and Mariyah are preparing for the birth of their first daughter Rumi. Jermaine is a Muslim revert and is working hard to learn the adhaan, the Muslim call to prayer to recite to their baby when she's born.

8-year-old Hafsa is doing her Hifdh, an ancient tradition practised by a small number of devout Muslims. She wakes up early and learns verses from the Quran, then after school she practises those verses.

Hanna was born into the faith, her parents were both converts to the faith. She and Ali both met and fell in love, they are now married and look back at their vows with pride and reflect on how their faith has helped them in their marriage.

In London, Emine is marking the tragic death of her mother. A final prayer takes place, symbolising her mum coming from god, and going back to god.

### **Being Sikh**

Harsimrat and Jagjit are celebrating the birth of their first-born baby at home. They turn to the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh book of prayer to determine the first letter of their baby's name.

15-year-old Ansh has been wearing his turban for two years, he is continuing to learn and embrace its sacred meaning and looks ahead to how much of a part it will play in his life as he grows up.

Hari and Kiran are young newlyweds and are continuing their devotion to their guru through their marriage and in their daily lives. They visit their gurdwara and carry out worship and prayer with one another.

Hardeep's father recently passed away and after the funeral and cremation, he scatters his father's ashes over flowing water to unite him back with God.

Being Christian, Being Muslim, Being Sikh are made by Workerbee (a Banijay UK company). The Executive Producer is Michelle Chappell and the directors are Ziyaad Desai, Hassan Ghazi and Joe Lister.

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## **BBC One**

### **Easter Day Eucharist with the Archbishop of Canterbury**

*Sunday 4 April, 10-11am*

On this most longed-for day in the Christian year, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby, shares his Easter message live from the stunning setting of Canterbury Cathedral.

Archbishop Justin will preside and preach at two Easter Day Eucharist services in Canterbury Cathedral on Easter morning – first on BBC Radio 4 at 8.10am and again, in a longer service, with more Easter music, on BBC One at 10am.

The Rt Revd Dr Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover, will read the Gospel and members of Canterbury Cathedral Choir will sing well-loved hymns for the season, including Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Now the Green Blade Riseth and Thine be the Glory. The Mass setting is Mozart's Missa Brevis in B Flat.

Although there will be no congregation present in the Cathedral, because of COVID restrictions, the Archbishop's words will reach an audience far and wide, live from Canterbury and also including special programmes on BBC Local Radio and Church of England Online.

### **Urbi et Orbi**

*TBC*

Live from Rome, Pope Francis delivers his Easter Message and Blessing Urbi et Orbi - to the city and to the world.

## BBC Radio 2

On BBC Radio 2 on Good Friday (7-9pm, Friday 2nd April), Dan Walker hosts At The Foot Of The Cross, a star studded evening of music and poetry to mark the day that Jesus died, bringing together writers and musicians recording from their own homes in lockdown.

Artists including Newton Faulkner and The Kingdom Choir join the BBC Philharmonic for one night only, creating brand new recordings. West End star Marisha Wallace speaks about the hope brought by her recording of Tomorrow, and MOBO Award Winner, Called Out Music, performs his own tracks recorded at his home studio, plus performances from the BBC Young Chorister of the Year, Alexander, and BBC Young Chorister finalists, Josie and Leah.

After a year of sacrifice, suffering, loneliness and grief, Dan hears moving accounts from people who have inspired others, who have battled with forgiveness, who have been supported by their faith and have come through to look towards a brighter future. This year has seen ordinary people doing extraordinary things and that will be celebrated throughout the evening. These themes are echoed in the Good Friday story which is brought to life again with new writing from some of Britain's most exciting writers including poetry slam champion, Harry Baker, Malika Booker, Jay Hulme and Tobi Olujinmi.



Rev. Kate Bottley and Jason Mohammad

Each week on Radio 2, the Rev. Kate Bottley and Jason Mohammad present Good Morning Sunday (6-9am) with uplifting stories about life, love and modern spirituality alongside a great soundtrack for Sunday mornings.

Launching on Sunday 28 March, a new feature called Like A Prayer explores the different ways we can find moments of calm and connection. Coinciding with key moments in the religious calendar from Passover to the Buddhist Wesak Day, Kate and Jason will hear stories of knitting nuns, Sufi dancers, gong baths and prayer walks. Hear how people of all faiths and none create moments of reflection and how, for many, they can be an act of self-care.

On Easter Sunday, British contemporary worship singer, Elle Limebear, performs for the show, plus Kate and Jason welcome Rev. Richard Coles who'll be talking about the loss of his partner, David, and reflecting on the message of Easter. And Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, will deliver the Easter Sunday Pause For Thought.

To mark the start of Ramadan, Zara Mohammed - the first female Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain - is the guest on Sunday 18 April, and the show will celebrate Passover, Holi, Vaisakhi and Wesak Day with music and food.

# BBC Radio 3 and BBC Orchestras & Choirs

## **Euroradio Day of Holy Week Music**

*Sunday 28 March, 11am-midnight*

Ian Skelly presents the annual Euroradio day of specially recorded music for Holy Week, from all over Europe.

- *11am-1pm*  
The first stop in this holy music journey across Europe is the International Performing Arts Center in Moscow, with the Moscow Synodal Choir marking their 300th anniversary with a concert of sacred music. The programme then travels to Prague for a concert of baroque music from Collegium Marianum.
- *1-3pm*  
Vatican City hosts a performance of 16th Century composer Ingegneri's Lamentations of the Prophet Jeremiah. Followed by Bulgarian music from The Men's Choir of St Nedelya Cathedral Church in Sofia.
- *4-7.15pm*  
The Royal Concertgebouw presents the traditional performance of a Holy Week Bach Passion. This year it's the turn of the St Matthew Passion conducted by Philippe Herreweghe with a top line-up of soloists including Maximilian Schmitt, Florian Boesch and Dorothee Mields.
- *10.25pm-midnight*  
The final stop in this special day of concerts of music for Holy Week is Munich, where the Bavarian Radio Chorus performs a varied selection of music for the Easter season including Lotti, Nysted, Poulenc and MacMillan, along with cello music by Lutoslawski and Dieter Ammann.

Producers: Juan Carlos Jaramillo; Rebecca Bean

## **Free Thinking: Writing about faith**

*Tuesday 30 March, 10-10.45pm*

Laurence Scott talks to three authors who have been considering how to write about faith in different ways. The broadcaster and stand up Frank Skinner in A Comedian's Prayer Book asks whether there is a place for comedy in prayer? Jeet Thayil was born into a Syrian Christian family in Kerala and his latest novel Names of the Women imagines the New Testament from the viewpoint of the women who became followers of Jesus Christ. Yaa Gyasi's second novel is called Transcendent Kingdom and it tells the story of a woman working within science who is negotiating her relationship both with her mother and with her beliefs and background.

- Producer: Emma Wallace
- An R&M Production - Factual for BBC Radio 3

## **Radio 3 In Concert: Music for Good Friday**

*Friday 2 April 2021, 7.30pm-TBC*

Presented by Martin Handley, live from Watford Colosseum, the BBC Singers and BBC Concert Orchestra are joined by conductor Daniel Hyde, Director of Music at King's College Cambridge, for a special performance on Good Friday. The programme includes choral music by Dobrinka Tabakova, Composer in Residence with the BBC CO, and Roderick Williams; and the Orchestra play music by influential American composer Judith Lang Zaimont and Joseph Haydn. The climax of the concert is a recent re-orchestration by Jonathan Rathbone of Vaughan Williams' Dona nobis pacem, which uses texts from the Mass, the Bible and poems by Walt Whitman.

- Judith Lang Zaimont - Elegy for Strings
- Dobrinka Tabakova - Alma Redemptoris Mater
- Roderick Williams - O Saviour of the World

- Haydn Symphony No.70 - 2nd mvt Andante
- Vaughan Williams - Dona nobis pacem
- Daniel Hyde, conductor
- BBC Singers
- BBC Concert Orchestra
- Producer: Neil Varley

**Private Passions: Sister Teresa Keswick**

*Sunday 4 March, midday-1pm*

Sister Teresa Keswick, a former London lawyer who became an enclosed nun, shares her life story and the music she loves with Michael Berkeley in a special programme for Easter Day.

Nearly forty years ago Teresa Keswick exchanged her life as a London lawyer to become a nun in an enclosed and largely silent Carmelite monastery in Norfolk. She's devoted her life to prayer and work and has become a highly skilled embroiderer. Since 2014 she's written a regular column for The Oldie magazine.

Teresa tells Michael about her initial reluctance to accept her vocation and leave her busy social life in London for a remote monastery in the Norfolk countryside and the contentment she eventually found in the strict daily routine of prayer and work.

She chooses pieces by Handel and Beethoven which reflect her life before she became a nun and two pieces of plain chant which play a central role in the life of her community. She describes her on-going love of 1960s pop music and we hear a song by Simon and Garfunkel which she still plays when she has a day off from work once a month. And she appreciates the importance of having fun – in life and in music – choosing the opening party scene from La Traviata, remembering a wonderful evening at the opera when she lived in London.

Teresa describes how her community celebrates Easter Day and chooses the culmination of Bach's Mass in B Minor; she says this music is the only thing that comes close to describing Christ's resurrection.

- Producer: Jane Greenwood
- A Loftus Media production for BBC Radio 3

**The Essay: Churchcrawls in Solitude**

*Monday 5 - Friday 9 April, 10.45-11pm*

During the relaxations of lockdown, the historian and writer Diarmaid MacCulloch sought sanctuary in his favourite hobby 'churchcrawling', which he defines as the relentless pursuit of churches of all shapes and size just for the fun of it, "like a pub crawl, only with churches". It's been his passion since his early childhood growing up in a rectory in rural Suffolk. In 'Churchcrawls in Solitude', Diarmaid MacCulloch takes listeners on journeys around five of Britain's most ancient and atmospheric churches: Illington in Norfolk; Wetherden and Dunwich in Suffolk; Inglesham in Wiltshire and St Barnabas Jericho in Oxford.

MacCulloch enables listeners to get lost in the history, art and personality of these churches as well as digging deeper to reflect on his own experiences. The series as a whole presents a deeply personal exploration of "a historian's life, measured out in churches." Mixing armchair travelogue with MacCulloch's personal reflections, these essays will provide an audio sanctuary for Radio 3 listeners in the company of one of our greatest thinkers and writers on Christianity and the church today.

- Producer: Melissa Fitzgerald
- A Blakeway production for BBC Radio 3



BBC Orchestras & Choirs are marking Easter with a range of music old and new, with choral and orchestral repertoire across Holy Week ranging from Haydn and Pergolesi to Imogen Holst and Dobrinka Tabakova.

BBC Singers and BBC Concert Orchestra perform the traditional Good Friday concert, this year taking place live from Watford Colosseum with conductor Daniel Hyde, Director of Music at King's College Cambridge.

**Afternoon on Radio 3: BBC Singers in Concert**

*Tuesday 30 March, 2-5pm*

Gabriella Teychenné conducts the BBC Singers in a concert of choral music celebrating Holy Week.

**BBC National Orchestra of Wales live in Concert**

*Thursday 1 April, 7.30pm-TBC*

BBC National Orchestra of Wales perform one of Pergolesi's most celebrated works, Stabat Mater, live in concert for BBC Radio 3.

Composed for the Confraternita dei Cavalieri di San Luigi de Palazzo whilst on his death bed at the Franciscan monastery in Pozzuoli, and tells of Mary's journey and feelings of seeing her son hung on a cross.

**Good Friday Afternoon on Radio 3**

*Friday 2 April, 2-5pm*

In the 60th anniversary year of the consecration of Guildford Cathedral, another chance to hear Barry Rose conducting Stainer's Crucifixion, recorded in Guildford Cathedral on 25 March 2018. The BBC Singers perform alongside soloists Peter Auty, Jeremy Carpenter, Malcolm Archer, and the Choristers of Guildford Cathedral with conductor Barry Rose - the first Organist and Master of the Choristers of Guildford Cathedral.

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## BBC Radio 4

**Good Friday Meditation**

*Friday 2 April, 3-3.30pm*

At the hour when Christians around the world contemplate Christ's death on the cross, Neil MacGregor and the Revd Lucy Winkett stand before one of Rembrandt's masterpieces 'Ecce Homo' in London's National Gallery. For Neil, the painting opens a great range of questions and responses.

It was (almost certainly) intended to serve for an engraving, for private meditation at home. In good Dutch Protestant fashion, it closely follows the text of John's Gospel - the clock at the sixth hour, the rabble shouting that they have no king but Caesar. It forces the viewer, us, to confront the question, Who is this man? Is he a king? and if so, what kind of king?

Rembrandt set the scene in front of a municipal building resembling Amsterdam Town Hall (now the Royal Palace), inaugurated in the year this print was created. In 17th-century Holland convicts were often sentenced outside, which coupled with the fact that many of the observers in the foreground are in the dress of the day, suggests Rembrandt was attempting to make contemporary viewers feel like participants in the drama, and, perhaps, complicit in the judgement. Perhaps that same challenge is there for contemporary viewers of the painting, too.

- Producer: Andrew Earis for BBC Radio 4

### **Sunrise Service**

*Sunday 4 April, 6.35-7am*

An Easter morning celebration of Christ's resurrection, exploring the themes of transformation and restoring hope. With a reading from the gospel of John describing the moment when Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene. Led by Arianna Walker and Debbie Harvie from Mercy UK, a Christian charity that helps women. With uplifting hymns and worship music including Morning Has Broken and Lord I Lift Your Name On High from Voices Beyond gospel choir.

- Producer: Jessie Bland for BBC Radio 4

### **Easter Sunday Worship**

*Sunday 4 April, 8.10-9am*

A celebration of the Eucharist with the Archbishop of Canterbury's Easter Message. Easter Songs, hymns and anthems ringing in the joy of Easter, live from Canterbury Cathedral.

After a year of pandemic lock down, sacrifices of those on the front line, and the pain of illness and bereavement, the Archbishop of Canterbury delivers his Easter message of new life.

Within the context of the Eucharist of thanksgiving proclaiming the promise of Resurrection from the dead, Justin Welby will deliver a message of hope, on the promise of a transformed existence of abundance and life in all its fullness - both now and in the world to come.

- The Very Revd Robert Willis: Dean of Canterbury
- David Newsholme: Acting Director of Music
- Adrian Bawtree: Acting Assistant Organist
- Andrew Earis: Producer for BBC Radio 4

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## **BBC World Service**

### **Heart and Soul: Pope Francis in Iraq - The Historic Pilgrimage**

*Sunday 4 April, 10.30-11am*

The world watched on as Pope Francis embarked on what he called a pilgrimage to the Middle East, a journey that could possibly be the Holy Father's legacy. Despite worries of the Covid pandemic and the real threat of a terrorist attack, Pope Francis became the first pontiff in history to visit Iraq. Standing among rubble and ruins in the devastated city of Mosul where ISIS took root and threatened to behead him, Pope Francis proclaimed "hope is more powerful than hatred, that peace more powerful than war."

In this programme Colm Flynn travels on the papal flight to Iraq to talk to Iraqi Christians and Muslims who have come out to welcome Pope Francis to their nation. The programme will bring you behind the scenes on a papal trip, and let you experience real moments with the Iraqi people who hope that the Pope's visit will bring long-lasting healing and peace to their land.

Presented and produced by Colm Flynn for the BBC World Service.

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## **BBC Asian Network**

BBC Asian Network is reflecting Ramadan, Eid and Vaisakhi with programmes, playlists and parties throughout April and May to celebrate this time with listeners around the world.

From 12 April during Asian Network Breakfast with Harpz Kaur, Little Things of Ramadan will hear what Ramadan means to people across the UK and the tips they've learnt throughout the month. Yasser will host a Ramadan Tracker in an ambitious plan to see how Ramadan is observed around the globe, hoping to get at least one contribution from every single continent. (Monday-Thursday, 4-7pm). Across the station Ramadan and Me will invite Muslim celebrities such as Mehreen Baig, Moeen Ali, Adil Ray and more to drop in and share what they will be doing for Ramadan with an ultimate Eid party from the 12 May.

On the 14 April, Vaisakhi and Me will be a station-wide feature which will hear what famous contributors such as Steel Banglez, Jaz Deol, Mandip Gill and Neelam Gill will be doing for the celebration with even more surprise features throughout the day.

Meet the Khans on BBC Three will follow British Boxer Amir Khan and his wife Faryal Makhdoom as they mark and celebrate Ramadan and Eid during lockdown - the couple will also share more of their experience during an upcoming BBC Asian Network podcast which will be available on BBC Sounds.

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## BBC Northern Ireland

BBC Northern Ireland will be offering a variety of programming reflecting faith and hope across television and radio.

On BBC One Northern Ireland, At Home with the Gettys is on Thursday 1 April, at 10.45pm. Keith and Kristyn Getty are probably the most successful Christian singer/songwriters in modern times and Northern Ireland's best export of contemporary faith-based music. They normally live in the United States; however, as a result of lockdown, the family are currently based in Northern Ireland.

This documentary from Imagine Media tells the story of how the couple rose to international stardom, singing contemporary hymns, and how they combine this with a life of faith. The story is interspersed with some performance pieces at home with the Gettys.

Service Of Hope At Easter on Sunday 4 April, BBC One Northern Ireland will feature the four main faith leaders in Northern Ireland introducing a series of hymns, readings and prayers to provide hope and inspiration in these extraordinary times.

BBC Northern Ireland will also be giving viewers another chance to see programmes on BBC One NI, BBC Two NI and BBC iPlayer, including Singing The Messiah; Oilithreach; Northern Irish Weddings, and Soul Singers.

In the run-up to Easter on BBC Radio Ulster/Foyle, From Darkness To Dawn is a meditation in words and music reflecting the journey of Holy Week. This year it will be presented by Pádraig O'Tuama and the Rev Cheryl Meban. The reflections will be broadcast each night at 11.50pm starting on Sunday 28 March and ending on Saturday 3 April. Pádraig O'Tuama will also present At The Foot Of The Cross, a reflection for Good Friday at 8.45am on Friday 2 April.

On Easter Day, Sunday Sequence on BBC Radio Ulster from 8.30-10am will be presented by Audrey Carville with guests discussing the relevance of the Resurrection in a Zoom-filled world.

The specially extended Morning Service programme, for Easter Sunday at 10am, will be led by Rev Dr Cecil Grant, minister of First Carrickfergus Presbyterian Church in County Antrim, with Bible readings, prayers and a range of Christian music to reflect the hope of the life that is to come.

Then from midday to 2pm in an extended programme - Easter Sunday Special with Brian D'Arcy brings a selection of reflections on the Easter theme and a variety of great music from old-time country to contemporary classics.

And at 5pm Richard Yarr presents a special Sounds Sacred for Easter Sunday, with rousing hymns of the season, audience requests and dedications.

All the radio programmes will also be available on BBC Sounds.

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## BBC Scotland

A whole year on from the start of Covid restrictions, Reflections at the Quay once again brings together the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Edinburgh to lead Easter worship. Last year the Rt Rev Colin Sinclair shared presenting with the Most Rev Leo Cushley. This year Archbishop Cushley joins the Rt Rev Martin Fair. Together they reflect on the evidence for the Resurrection in Mark's gospel, the earliest account of the life of Jesus, written just thirty years after his death.

A new series of The Service will also be available on BBC Scotland and iPlayer, including a Muslim worship service for Ramadan and a Sikh worship service for Vaisakhi.

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## BBC Radio Scotland

### **Shadows and Half-Light (R)**

*Friday 2 April, 6am-TBC*

Rosa Murray, a Catholic educator, and Richard Frazer of Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh, explore the meaning of suffering and hope on Good Friday, as we face the pandemic together. They reflect on the inescapable presence of pain in our lives and how we can come through it with compassion.

### **The Touch of Love**

*Friday 2 April, 6.30am-TBC*

Spiritual director, Anne Burhmann, explores how living through the pandemic has made us feel more deeply and love more deeply; aware of our human vulnerability and our separateness but also how connected we are. Setting people's stories of hurt but also of love against the Passion story, Anne looks for meaning in suffering, and also signs of hope and rebirth.

### **New Every Sunday**

*Sunday 4 April, 7.30am-TBC*

Easter Sunday service with Rev Dr Martin Ritchie, Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

### **Sunday Morning with Connie McLaughlin**

*Sunday 4 April, 8am-TBC*

Religious magazine programme marking Easter Sunday, including Abbie Purvis who has achondroplasia and whose Christian faith has helped her thrive despite a difficult school experience.

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## BBC ALBA

A new series of the spiritual programme Alleluia begins on Sunday 4 April with a blend of hymns, psalms and readings especially for Easter. Amongst the performers will be Skye singer Deirdre Graham with a new rendition of the Gaelic Hymn Eifeachd am Fuil an Uain while James Graham sings Soills' Air Mo Smuain (Be Thou my Vision). Both Father Seumas MacNeil from St. Columba's Cathedral Oban and Rev Donald Michael MacInnes from Gairbraid Church in Glasgow will deliver readings and spiritual thoughts for Easter time.

The programme will air on BBC ALBA on Sunday 4 April at 7.30pm. It will be repeated on Tuesday 6 April at 11.30pm. It will also broadcast on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal at 9pm on Easter Sunday.

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## BBC Radio nan Gàidheal

Our Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday service will be prepared this year by our Gaelic speaking Baptist minister and former broadcaster, the Rev Susie Roberts from Longfleet Baptist Church in Dorset. Susie will prepare her service for Dèanamaid Adhradh and will deliver it from the comfort of her own home, using digital technology, and it will be broadcast on 28 March at 9.03am and repeated at 3.03pm.

This marks the start of Holy Week, and will be followed by daily thoughts brought to us in Smuain na Maidne (Thought for the Day) each morning Monday to Friday at 8.27am with Canon James MacNeil .

Poland is the location for our Easter Sunday Service on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal this year. Digital technology enables Fr Jaroslaw Kwiecien, a Polish Priest who is also fluent in Scottish Gaelic, to celebrate this joyous occasion with us as we commemorate Jesus' s resurrection from the dead.

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## BBC Cymru Wales

Join BBC Radio Wales for Good Friday Meditation - a soulful reflection with Rev Dr Stephen Wigley, Chair of the Wales Synod of the Methodist Church. And on Easter Sunday morning, join Beverly Humphreys for a celebration of light to welcome this special day and the onset of spring before we join St Mary's Conwy with the Rev David Parry and Rev Canon Mary Stallard for a joyful Easter Service.

Radio Cymru kicks off the Easter weekend with Cerddoriaeth yr Wythnos Fawr (Music for the Holy Week) on Good Friday as Heledd Cynwal and Alwyn Humphreys introduce two hours of music for Holy Week. In Caniadaeth y Cysegr (Congregational Singing) on Easter Sunday, poet Christine James introduces half an hour of hymn singing, while in Yr Oedfa (The Service) husband and wife Ministers, Nan and Huw Powell-Davies, lead us in worship. Nan and Huw also present a service on Good Friday. And on Easter Sunday, Y Ferch a'r Pasg (Women in Easter) reinterprets the stories of women in the Easter story, through specially commissioned dramatic readings and music.

On Sunday after Easter Yr Oedfa turns its attention to Ramadan with a service of a slightly different nature, as Muslim Laura Jones discusses aspects of her faith and looks ahead to the start of Ramadan, emphasising experiences shared between many faiths.

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## BBC local radio

Local BBC radio has a selection of Easter programming that will broadcast across all 39 radio stations to mark the holiest of times in the Christian calendar. Coverage begins on Good Friday when Cardinal

Vincent Nichols, the leader of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, will lead a service featuring prayers, hymns and readings from 7am. Then on Easter Sunday, The Archbishop of Canterbury will deliver a specially produced service at 8am which will include his Easter message.

Other faith programming over the Easter period on local BBC radio includes a reflection on the Jewish festival of Passover by the Chief Rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis on 28 March during Sunday Breakfast and for the Hindu festival of Holi on 29 March. There will also be reflections to mark Ramadan and Vaisakhi as part of the Keeping Faith series, which sees Islamic, Sikh and Hindu reflections broadcast each week on local radio.

British gospel singer and radio presenter, Muyiwa Olarewaju OBE, is leading the service on March 28 and the service will feature the Guvna B song Cast Your Cares sung with the Kingdom Choir.

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## Digital content

There will be specially curated short stories from the new BBC One series Being..., which will be shared across BBC social platforms.

BBC Food will feature a collection of special recipes tied to the faith festivals and BBC Homepage will bring together content highlights from Faith and Hope for Spring 2021.

## Religion



- **Faith and Hope for Spring 2021**

BBC unveils plans to support faith communities and mark key festivals across its networks this spring

- [Easter 2021](#)
- [Religion](#)

**BBC iPlayer: Like Nowhere Else**



Iplayer

## Age-old rituals in multi-faith Britain

BEING...

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