



Term 1, 2019

Comprising stories from Messy Churches, resource suggestions for Easter, parenting for faith options and much more, I trust you will find this first Australian Messy Church Newsletter for 2019 both encouraging and helpful! May you, your team and all your Messy Church participants be greatly blessed as you journey together toward Easter.

~ Chris Barnett.

Happy Birthday!

Our Messy Church just had its 1st birthday. We launched Messy Science and it was a great success. We had seven new families rock up which was awesome. We're looking forward to meeting up with many others from Oz at the Messy Church International Conference.

Sue, Greenwood (WA)

Connecting with a New Generation

Having investigated Messy Church and after all the preliminaries were done we embarked on this wonderful journey of telling the stories of Jesus to a new generation. We started small, meeting from 3pm to 5pm on the second Sunday of each Month, and are progressing well. Toddlers, pre-schoolers and other young ones enjoy the older people who turn up. We follow Lucy Moore's book for inspiration and are so glad that we commenced this new venture. 2019 began for us with a Messy Picnic in January 2019.

Patsy, Armidale (NSW)

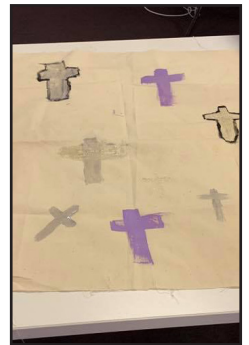
At a Crossroad

We started Messy Church at Alstonville in January 2012 and conscientiously met once a month on Fridays from 4.30pm - 6.30pm in our Parish Hall. Over the period of time 2012 - 2017 numbers attending, including the loyal team of 20 parishioners, ranged from 50 to a maximum of 109 people of all ages. In 2018 our numbers were around 30 -50, including team. We are at another crossroad - searching for the right time slot, the right connection and the right promotion to encourage people from the wider community to come and experience Messy Church and all that it promises.

Barry, Alstonville (NSW)

Messy Church Makes Churches Missional

When Richard and his wife Kayla decided to give Messy Church a go, it became a catalyst for a 'virtual spiral' - that completely changed the atmosphere, as the entire congregation were swept up in renewed purpose... inspired to serve together and reach out in mission. To see more of this - and other - encouraging Messy Church stories - [click here](#).



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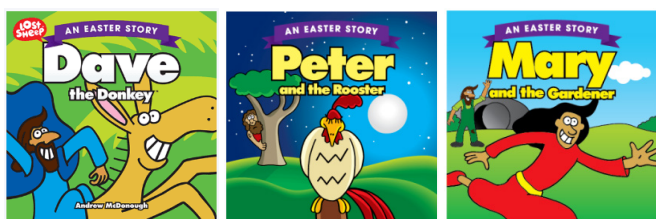
Easter Plus

Easter is approaching fast! Have you seen the Messy web list of Lent and Easter [resources](#)? Have you tried the shaving foam fun marbling (here is a [video clip](#))? Why not pop [Lent in 3 Minutes](#) on your Messy Church Facebook page? There's a heap of Lent & Easter ideas on the Messy Lent & Easter [Pinterest Board](#), as well as inspiration via [Messy Instagram](#)!

Lost Sheep & Easter

If you're still looking for ideas for Easter celebrations, some stories to consider from Lost Sheep include...

- [Dave the Donkey](#)
- [Peter and the Rooster](#)
- [The way of the Cross](#)
- [Mary and the Gardener](#)
- [Peter and the Big Breakfast](#)



For many Messy Churches a [Lost Sheep Church Membership](#) will be the most cost-effective option. Membership provides complete access to 30+ Lost Sheep stories (including ppt downloads), teaching resources and printable activity sheets. For churches of up to 100 people, initial membership is only \$100 (and then just \$50 per year thereafter)!

Growing Faith Moments

Many Messy Churches take time to celebrate significant events in the lives of Messy Church families. The Growing Faith Moments resources from Grow Ministries have been created to encourage congregations and families to mark such special moments. These resources provide gentle ways of recognising God in everyday life. See more at [Growing Faith Moments](#).

Faith & Families

What resources are you utilising to assist families grow in faith at home? If you're looking for resources, in addition to the highly recommended [Toolbox Parenting Courses](#), you might also want to explore [Parenting for Faith](#). Based on the book Parenting Children for a Life of Faith, the Parenting for Faith course is a video-based resource for communities that can be downloaded or live-streamed. It's normally run in a church or small group, but can be used by individuals as well. The course, [handbooks and promotional materials](#) are all free to download.

New Messy Church Website



Did you know that there has been a complete redesign of the Messy Church website? The previous site was launched in 2013 and, since then, the size of the Messy Church network has exploded to more than 3,900 Messy Churches in over 20 countries! However, while Messy Church has grown significantly since 2013, the systems on the website had stayed much the same. The new website is a big step forward, and our prayer is that it will serve the whole Messy Church community well. [Check out the new website here.](#)

Playfully serious

From a small beginning in 2004, Messy Church has since grown into an international phenomenon as a popular, practical model for local congregations engaging in mission. But what effect is it actually having? How are Messy Churches growing disciples and how are Messy Churches maturing as church? Explore the Playfully Serious Report from the Church Army to find out the answers to these questions and more. Download [Playfully Serious](#).

Stories, Photos and Resource suggestions

For the next Australian Messy Church Newsletter stories, photos and resource suggestions from your Messy Church would be greatly appreciated. Seeing photos or reading stories from your Messy Church experience can be a great encouragement to your Messy Church team! Please e-mail any content (with appropriate permission, of course) to chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au.

2019 Australian Messy Church Roundtable

The seventh annual Australian Messy Church Roundtable (AMCR) took place in Sydney across Monday February 11 and Tuesday February 12. Appreciation is expressed to the Uniting Church Synod of NSW/ACT for their generous hosting of the event, the Messy Church National Team for the facilitation of the event, BRF for its prayerful support and to each participant for their willingness to contribute their time, energy and resources to the development of Messy Church in Australia. This gathering was especially blessed by the presence of colleagues from Messy Church in New Zealand. If you would like a copy of the Summary Report, please e-mail chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au.