


How I Celebrate

UTS Multicultural Women's Network

2023





The UTS Multicultural Women's Network acknowledge the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, the Boorooberongal people of the Dharug Nation, the Bidiagal people and the Gamaygal people upon whose ancestral lands the UTS campus stand. We pay respect to Elders past and present, acknowledging them as the traditional custodians of knowledge for these lands and recognising their continuing connection to land, waters, country, and community. We acknowledge the historical oppression of land, language, and culture of First Nations People and commit to the decolonising journey we all share.



Multicultural
Women's Network

WHAT?

The Multicultural Women's Network aims to showcase significant cultural events through our e-booklets.

WHY?

To acknowledge the cultural diversity of UTS. Using an assets-based approach of amplifying how people celebrate, this project aims to empower people to feel proud of their cultural backgrounds, as well as to celebrate the cultural diversity of our UTS community.

WHO?

This is for UTS staff, students and anyone else you think would benefit from learning more about cultural events.



This February, we're
spotlighting

Lent
(22 February – 6 April)
and
Easter *(9 April)*

What is Lent?

Lent is the Christian season of spiritual preparation before Easter. It includes fasting, penance, almsgiving, self-denial and prayer that begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts 40 days as it leads up to Easter.

What is Easter?

Easter is the celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection. It is recognised as the most holy day in the Christian calendar.



Who celebrates Lent and Easter?

Lent and Easter are mostly observed by the Anglican, Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic churches.



Fun facts about Lent

Why 40 days?

The 40-day period of Lent is based on two episodes of spiritual testing in the Bible: the 40 years of wilderness wanderings by the Israelites after the exodus from Egypt (Numbers 33:38 and Deuteronomy 1:3) and the Temptation of Jesus after he spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13).

Why the colour purple?

Purple is rich in symbolism, originally associated with royalty, because it was a more expensive colour to dye. It was used as an act of derision toward Jesus when Pontius Pilate placed a purple robe on him, whom he called “King of the Jews”. It can be argued that purple is thus used to flip the sarcastic intention of this gesture and reclaims the royal attribution to Jesus.

**If this is
about Jesus,
what's the
deal with
Easter eggs?**

“The egg has been a symbol of rebirth and fertility for many centuries. Long before Christianity was introduced, eggs were painted with bright colours to celebrate the sunlight of spring.”

Fun facts about Easter



For more information, scan the QR code or
click on the link: <http://bit.ly/3Xfw6s6>

**The Easter
Bunny?**


“Historians believe the legend of the Easter Bunny originated in Germany before surfacing in the New World in the seventeenth century. Children believed the Easter Bunny would leave them coloured eggs if they were good, and left out their Easter bonnets and caps for the gifts.”



**Stories
from our
UTS
community**

What does Lent mean to you?

reflection Jesus
commitment humility humbleness
avoiding red meat on Fridays hope
fasting self sacrifice alms giving
family traditions repentance
joy faith going to church



Think about a time you
were at your happiest
celebrating Easter.
A moment where you
felt alive and most
fulfilled...

Tell me about this moment.



...meeting with family and sharing time together. And with family I mean nuclear and extended family, it's a pretty big gathering! We have a big lunch that the host prepares, but everyone brings something to add to the lunch menu or dessert. We have a coffee after lunch and eat lots of chocolates, and we don't get up from the table until at least 6 pm. We talk a lot, we laugh, and we share family stories... In Argentina, that weekend tends to be very long with public holidays, so everyone travels to visit their family if they are far.

Josefina Delas

Operations Officer, Centre for
Social Justice and Inclusion

Tell me about this moment.

In the Easter of 2021, I received the sacraments of baptism and confirmation in the Roman rite of the Catholic Church.

Hudson Leone

PhD candidate in the Center for Quantum Software and Information (QSI) and former President of the UTS Catholic Society

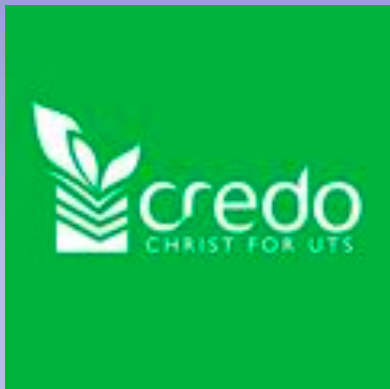
I grew up Atheist and struggled through my early adult life the way that most young people do today. I made the decision to convert after a long period of discernment, and felt a wonderful peace after receiving these sacraments. I've often likened it to coming home after a long day and having a change of clothes.

...baptism is the birth of faith and the spiritual life, the Catholic tradition holds that Confirmation is the maturity of faith



At Easter Time Convention singing and praising God in song with hundreds of other believers!

ETC is a university-based conference run by Credo for it and surrounding campuses who don't have a group themselves (e.g., Notre Dame, Ultimo TAFE, etc). It's a fantastic long Easter weekend away (often Thursday night to Monday afternoon) which I've attended the last two years I've been at UTS.



I was able to rely on others. There was so much new in my faith at the time (and there still is!), including singing so openly and passionately. Those around me not only knew the words (after all, they were on the screen!) but they sung with such conviction. I'm not a very good singer, but in that time it was unreal to be singing so passionately with so many others. It motivated me to lift up my voice not just then, but every chance I have. Whether that be at home, at church or at another conference.

Tell me about this moment.

...it was incredibly nerve wracking to be away from my family at Easter with many people I had yet to meet and get to know (I was only 6 weeks into my time at UTS & Credo!) But honestly those feelings went away more and more across that first weekend, so much so I wanted to be back once I got home!

Alex Bahn

Student in the School of Communications, majoring in Journalism and Strategic Communication. Member of Credo (Christ for UTS).



Credo members at the Easter Time Convention in 2021



Hudson Leone receiving the sacraments



Catholicism was central to my childhood in the Philippines: it formed communities and bonds based on a shared faith. And when it came to Holy Week (the week between Palm Sunday and Easter) – it was Catholicism on hyper mode!

In my *Lola's* province, in the north of the Philippines, I attended a re-enactment of Jesus' crucifixion - with a crowd of people watching and mourning as devotees trudged with a heavy cross.

Tell me about this moment.

I know they were eventually nailed to the crosses they carried - which I didn't witness – but seeing the sweat, blood and tears...the humanity and humanness of the Easter story...it was not a feeling of happiness, but a visceral shock and humility to feel the power of redemption.

Dr. Elaine Laforteza
Equity and Diversity Project
Officer (Cultural Diversity),
Centre for Social Justice and
Inclusion

Tell me about this moment.

I attended a Vigil service when I was younger. I was with my Dad, Uncle, and Aunt. I remember the atmosphere more than anything else—the admiration of architecture in a different church, the warmth of the candles we held. I was old enough to know what I was supposed to do but young enough not to fully understand all the traditions yet.

Anonymous respondent

Even to this day, curiosity manifests itself in the awe and peace I feel when visiting new, or newly-renovated, churches. As well as a sense of maturity and respect for the Tradition and Liturgy, there will always be a child-like wonder regarding the 'newness' of each Mass I attend.



Tell me about this moment.

Celebrating Easter with the family. We would have Easter egg hunting for the kids and the family would gather with food...[I am] the *Tita* (aunt) who is known to spoil the kids.

Irene Davidson
Casual Academic, School of
Nursing and Midwifery

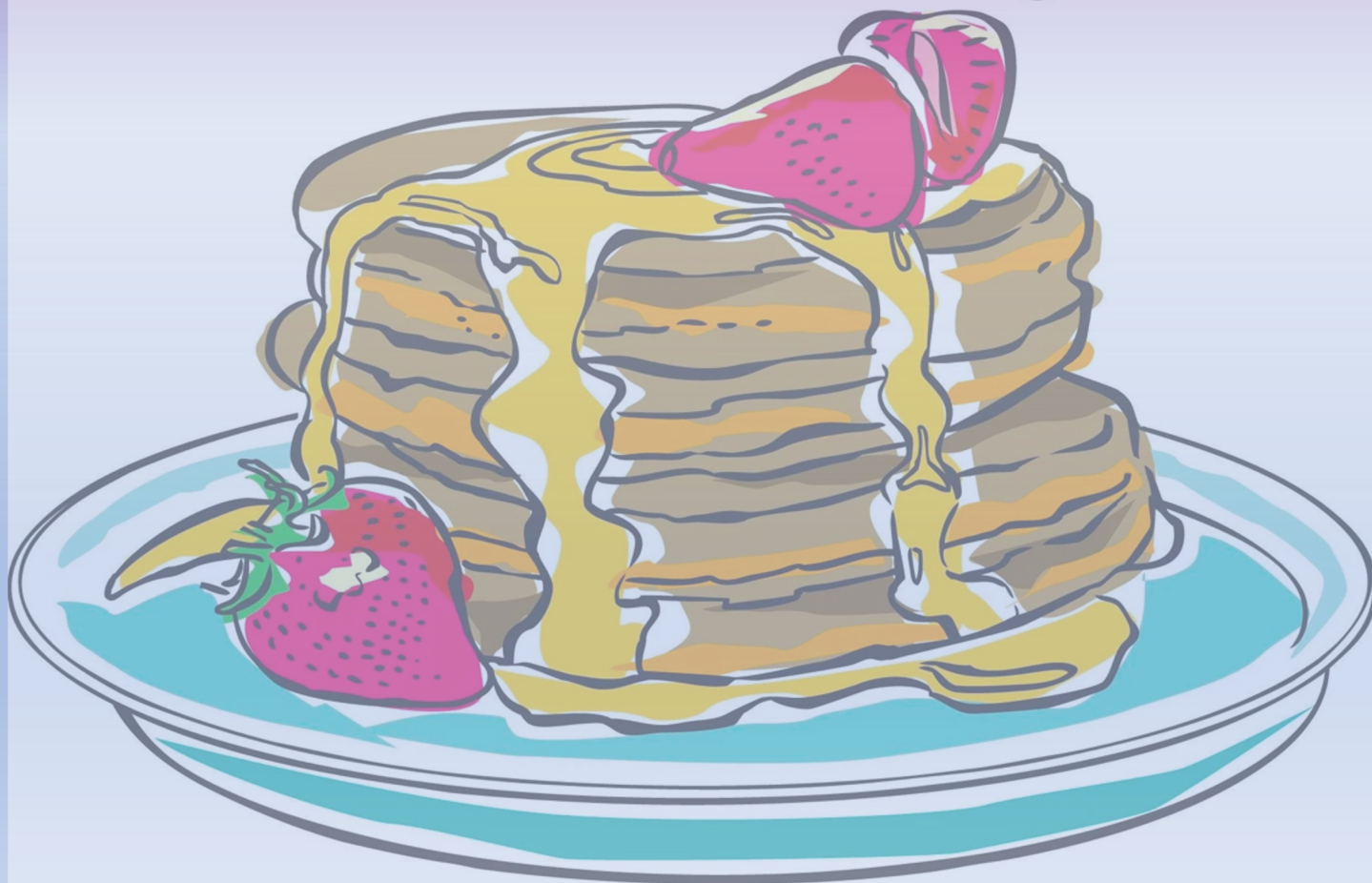
My sisters prepared the food. Everyone took part in preparing the overall festivities.



What does Easter mean to you?


Jesus's sacrifice and death
celebration Easter eggs! Easter bunny
spending time with family God
Jesus's resurrection chocolate
good food hot cross buns
miracle of life and redemption

Shrove Tuesday



Fun fact

Many churches that observe Lent, celebrate [Shrove Tuesday](#). Traditionally, pancakes are eaten on Shrove Tuesday (the day before Ash Wednesday) to use up rich foods like eggs and dairy in anticipation of the 40-day fasting season of Lent. Shrove Tuesday is also called Pancake Day or [Fat Tuesday](#) or [Mardi Gras](#), which is French for Fat Tuesday.



**In all the ways that
you celebrate, we
wish you a special
Lenten and Easter
period.**



Multicultural
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JOIN US!

Supporting women at UTS to
reach their full potential



For more information,
email:
mwn@uts.edu.au

**This booklet
was created
by Dr. Elaine
Laforteza**



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