

ACRATH suggestions for each week leading to Easter Sunday 2019

Weekend of March 9 & 10

Pope Francis said that “every person ought to have the awareness that purchasing is always a moral – and not simply an economic – act.”

Cocoa is a key ingredient of chocolate and many children in West Africa are enslaved to pick the cocoa beans. They will never taste the delicious chocolate their slavery helps produce.

Buy only slavery-free chocolate to ensure no enslaved children were involved in the production.

To buy slavery-free Easter chocolate look for any of these three certification symbols (below) on the wrappers: FAIRTRADE, Rainforest Alliance and UTZ. It's delicious and you can buy it at ALDI, Haigh's, Oxfam and other leading supermarkets and shops.

Good news: Late in 2018 the Federal Government passed the Modern Slavery Act, which will ask big companies to report on their efforts to introduce slavery-free goods and services.

Action: Watch the Pope's video at:

<https://acrath.org.au/pope-francis-invites-prayer-for-human-trafficking-victims/>



People are NOT for sale

<https://acrath.org.au/take-action/slavery-free-easter/>
for information and resources.

Weekend of March 16 & 17

Last month, while speaking about modern slavery Pope Francis said that, faced with the tragic reality of modern slavery, “no one can wash their hands of it, without being in some way, an accomplice to this crime against humanity”.

Is your parish or school running a chocolate raffle for Caritas' Project Compassion? Please include only slavery-free chocolate (featuring one of the symbols below), in the raffle, in your classroom or in your staffroom. The International Labor Rights Forum (ILRF) estimates that there are 1.5 million children working in the cocoa sector in West Africa.

Good News: This year Catholic Education Melbourne is working towards the 333 Catholic primary and secondary schools in Melbourne becoming slavery free.

Action: Support our Catholic schools and encourage children around you to only eat slavery-free chocolate.



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Weekend of March 23 & 24

We cannot ignore the fact that there is as much slavery in the world today, as there was before, or perhaps more – said Pope Francis last month.

Can't find slavery-free Easter eggs in your supermarket?

Ten years ago there was almost no slavery-free chocolate in our supermarkets in Australia. Now, because of public pressure and consumer demands, most supermarkets will sell some. Thank you for contributing to the demand for slavery-free chocolate, but we have a long way to go.

Good news: There is now slavery-free chocolate available in so many places. It tastes delicious and is no more expensive than other chocolate. Try ALDI, Haighs, OXFAM and leading supermarkets.

The Catholic Archdiocese Melbourne is also converting to slavery-free tea and coffee. Get on board!

Action: When you go to your local supermarket, look for chocolate that has one of these three symbols. If you can't find any, ask the manager if they stock any.



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Weekend of March 30 & 31

Pope Francis said "every person ought to have the awareness that purchasing is always a moral – and not simply an economic – act."

It is estimated that up to 40 million people are trapped in slavery globally – 1 in 4 of these are children. They will never get an education and they will never taste the chocolate produced from the cocoa beans they pick. But people around the world are making decisions that could change this tragedy.

Good News: St Vincent's Health Australia is working towards slavery-free procurement of the goods and services used across their 32 sites.

Action: Follow the lead of Melbourne Catholic schools and St Vincent's and buy only slavery-free. It is delicious. It will feature one of these three logos.



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Weekend of April 6 & 7

Last month, while speaking about modern slavery Pope Francis said that, faced with the tragic reality of modern slavery, “no one can wash their hands of it, without being in some way, an accomplice to this crime against humanity”.

Thinking of buying Easter eggs? Use your money justly – please.

What Easter eggs will you enjoy this Easter? There is now a wide range of slavery-free chocolate and Easter eggs available, including a budget-priced range of UTZ certified products in ALDI, Coles and a wide selection at Haighs and OXFAM shops; Chocolatier also produces FAIRTRADE Easter chocolate.

Good news: The Sydney Archdiocese is reviewing and revising all relevant contractual and business practices as part of its commitment to eradicating human trafficking. They are joining a powerful movement that will change, forever, the lives of enslaved children – God’s children.

Action: Tell three people about the importance of buying only slavery-free chocolate this Easter and beyond. Try some and tell them how good it tastes. Join this global fight against modern slavery.



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Weekend of April 13 & 14

We cannot ignore the fact that there is as much slavery in the world today, as there was before, or perhaps more – said Pope Francis last month.

Australians spent around \$210 million on Easter chocolate last year. This year it will be about the same, or more. Companies will produce what we ask for. Please use your buying power and purchase slavery-free chocolate. You can make a difference to the world, and to the lives of the enslaved children who are forced to pick the cocoa beans used in a lot of chocolate.

Good news: Catholic agencies and institutions are leading the way in Australia in demanding slavery-free supply chains, including in the production of chocolate. Don’t leave it up to the big companies.

Action: Please buy and eat only slavery-free Easter eggs and chocolate this Easter. Look for one of these three symbols on the chocolate wrapper and make a difference. Convert to slavery-free.



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Easter weekend of April 20 & 21

Pope Francis said that “every person ought to have the awareness that purchasing is always a moral – and not simply an economic – act.”

What slavery-free Easter eggs will you enjoy this Easter weekend?

If you purchased slavery-free chocolate for family and friends, show them the certification label and tell them why you chose to buy it. Tell them no enslaved child on the other side of the world was used in the production of the chocolate you bought.

Happy Easter. And keep spreading the word.



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