

Today we have been thinking about Easter and I want us to think about that simple symbol of a cross and the ways in which we use it in our daily lives to help us understand the significance of it.

When you get one of your sums wrong in school or perhaps we fill in a form incorrectly, the person checking it will put a cross next to our mistake to let us know that we've got it wrong and we need to try again until we get it right! All of us get things wrong all the time in our lives, but the cross on which Jesus died is a cross that means we can be forgiven for those things that we have got wrong. It's a cross that speaks of God's amazing grace for all of us.

Then when election time comes around and we have to vote for our chosen candidate, we are asked to put a cross in a box to indicate which person we have chosen. We do that on other forms as well quite often don't we – maybe when we're choosing our meals in hospital, or the seminar that we want to attend at a particular event. Maybe you choose your school dinners that way or you indicate the answer you've chosen in a multiple choice exam question. The cross indicates our choice. The cross of Jesus confirms that God has chosen us to be his people and he longs for us to choose to follow him.

And finally, we often use the sign of a cross to express our love for others. When we sign our birthday cards or Easter cards, or letters, or e-mails perhaps, we finish off with a cross, symbolising a kiss, symbolising our love for the person that we have written to. The cross of Jesus was the most amazing display of love ever; God's love for you and me.

And so today, we celebrate the fact that we are chosen, we are loved and we are forgiven, all because of Jesus.