

An Easter Vigil at Home



The Easter Vigil is the most important celebration in the year of the Catholic Church. That said, it cannot really be separated from the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and the Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday. These three liturgies are collectively known as the Sacred Triduum.

Of course, not everyone gets to take part in the Easter Vigil, especially parents of young families. This year however, since we will all be at home on the Saturday Evening before Easter Sunday, I want to encourage you to have a simple Easter Vigil at Home.

How to prepare:

Paschal Candle – Decorating your own family **Paschal Candle** could be part of the afternoon or evening activities. There is an excellent article from a Blog written by an American Mum (or Mom as they call it). It can be downloaded on the parish website:

www.newmanparishwarrington.com

Another possibility would be to find any candles kept from a baptism and use them. If you can also prepare **some individual candles** to use near the end of the service.

Place the **Candle on a table** with some Spring flowers if you can, if you use a smart TV for the **YouTube clip**; then the table could be a coffee table around which you sit (how about on the floor for this).

It is important to have **something special** to **eat** and **drink** at the end of the service, it is now Easter after all.

Maybe an anticipatory Easter Egg...

Vigil Service

Gather in the room where the Candle is waiting.

The Candle is ready to be dedicated by the family and then lit by the youngest member if it is safe for them to do it.

Dedication of the Easter Candle

Dear God our Father
Here is our Easter Candle.
We have prepared it to shine brightly in our home.

It reminds us of the joy of the Resurrection.
Jesus died but you freed him from the tomb
Death never wins.

So, as we light our Candle this Easter Night,
We ask you:

To bless our home with your love,
Bless our hearts with you love,
Bless our world with your peace.

In the name of the Father, +
And of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.



Listening to God in the Holy Bible

God's Story is Our Story Because of Jesus

Then watch a YouTube video which works its way through *God's Story*. Obviously because it only lasts about five minutes it is extremely summary. It links the Vigil at Home with the Vigil of Old Testament Readings of the service at Church. Here's the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebrbdbXzMrg>

Easter Gospel Reading

Jesus Rises from Death Matthew 28:1-10 International Children's Bible (ICB)

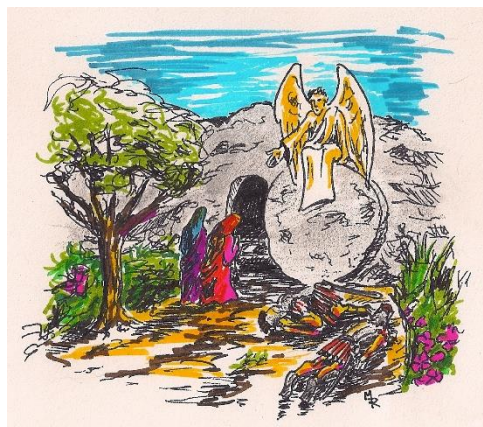
The day after the Sabbath day was the first day of the week. At dawn on the first day, Mary Magdalene and another woman named Mary went to look at the tomb.

At that time there was a strong earthquake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven. The angel went to the tomb and rolled the stone away from the entrance. Then he sat on the stone. He was shining as bright as lightning. His clothes were white as snow. The soldiers guarding the tomb were very frightened of the angel. They shook with fear and then became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, the one who was killed on the cross. But he is not here. He has risen from death as he said he would. Come and see the place where his body was. And go quickly and tell his followers. Say to them: 'Jesus has risen from death. He is going into Galilee. He will be there before you. You will see him there.'" Then the angel said, "Now I have told you."

The women left the tomb quickly. They were afraid, but they were also very happy. They ran to tell Jesus' followers what had happened. Suddenly, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings." The women came up to Jesus, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go on to Galilee. They will see me there."

The gospel of the Lord **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!**



The Easter Vigil also draws our attention to the font. The place of Baptism. The place where water is used to bring us into the family of the Church. This is also a time for renewing the promises made when we were Baptised. Time to stand.

So, light your candles (careful not to spill the wax). Hold your candle carefully with one hand and put the other hand over your heart. Then someone asks the following questions that remind us of important things we believe and good things we do as Christians:

AN ACT OF FAITH FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Do you believe that God made this wonderful world in which we live. **I DO**

Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose again from the dead. **I DO**

Do you believe that the Holy Spirit helps and guides the friends of Jesus to follow his way of love. **I DO**

Will you live your life as a friend and follower of Jesus. **WE WILL**

Will you talk with God about the important decisions that you make. **WE WILL**

Will you show the love of God by care and kindness to those in need. **WE WILL**

This is our faith and we are proud to share it. AMEN

Our Big Alleluia!

Find something to improvise as a noisemaker. Whistles, pots and pans, real musical instruments are allowed too of course. Get them ready and see if you can spend a whole minute making noise and shouting out again and again at the tops of your voices:

JESUS IS RISEN, ALLELUIA!

Time now to share something nice like Cup Cakes, Pop etc...!