

Holy Saturday

This day is traditionally the day of rest, and of preparing our beloved churches for the Easter services. Why not make an Easter garden, or decorate a branch of spring leaves with painted blown Easter Eggs for your home?

In the evening as the light fades or just before sunrise on Easter morning you could read the traditional vigil readings to prepare for the dawn of Easter.

Vigil Readings

Genesis 1.1 - 2.4a	<i>The Creation</i>
Genesis 3	<i>The Fall</i>
Genesis 7 etc	<i>Noah and the flood</i>
Exodus 3.1-6	<i>Moses and the burning bush</i>
Exodus 14.10-end; 15.1a	<i>Crossing the Red Sea</i>
Jonah 1.1 - 2.10	<i>Jonah and the fish</i>
Daniel 3.1-28	<i>The three young men in the furnace</i>
Daniel 6.1-24	<i>Daniel in the lions' den</i>

You may like to wake early tomorrow and with one of your own candles you can use the prayers for the Easter candle and Easter garden before breakfast! Or you may like to use the vigil readings and then go straight into the candle and/or garden prayers.

Easter Candle and Garden

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ was raised gloriously from the dead, crushing the power of sin and destroying the sting of death. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the mighty power of God as Christ calls us out of darkness to share in his marvellous light. May we, and all Christ's people, shine as lights in the world to the glory of God the Father.

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds. (Light the candle)

We hold our lit candle

The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayers at the Easter Garden

Alleluia. Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.' *Matthew 28.5,6*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. To you be glory now and for ever. In your great mercy you have given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. By your blessing, may we who have prepared this garden in celebration of his victory be strengthened in faith, know the power of his presence, and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory.

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed Alleluia!