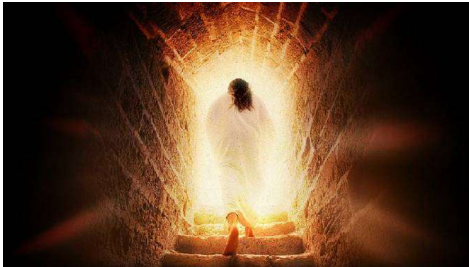


EASTER VIGIL

Watch the video that accompanies this resource here: www.cpg.church/family

The celebration of Easter actually starts the night before with the Holy Saturday Mass, known as the Easter Vigil.



We remember:

That Jesus is the light in our darkness.

All the ways God walked with humanity and the covenants he made with them throughout the Old Testament.

How Mary Magdalene was the first person to see the risen Lord.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE?

LIGHT
The light of Christ that shines in the darkness.

FIRE
It represents Christ's resurrection.

GRAINS OF INCENSE
They represent the 5 wounds of Christ.

ALPHA AND OMEGA
Christ is the beginning and end of all things.

CROSS
It represents Christ and his eternal light.

YEAR
It reminds us of God's presence here and now.

Source: Aleteia.com CatholicLink

We see at Mass:

The priest wears white or even gold because we're joyfully celebrating Jesus' victory over death.

The Paschal Candle, the "Light of Christ", is lit from a fire and carried into the dark church and the congregations' candles are lit from it – lighting up the whole building.

People coming into the Catholic Church are Baptised and Confirmed.

Other interesting facts:

- Holy Saturday Mass is the longest Mass of the year.
- Lots of extra readings helps us recall salvation history.
- We sing Alleluia for the first time since before lent started.
- Easter is 8 days long (so keep celebrating)!

Things you can do:

- [Watch the Easter Vigil Mass at 8.30pm](#)
- Light a candle.
- Decorate your house to symbolise hope, joy and new life found in the Resurrection
- Have a feast.
- Create your own [Easter Story Stones](#)
- **Do the activity below:** you will need a plant pot, soil, a bulb or seed.

Planting a Bulb or Seed



Jesus said,

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed.

A man plants the seed in his field.

That seed is the smallest of all seeds.

But when it grows, it is one of the largest garden plants. It becomes a tree, big enough for the wild birds to come and make nests in its branches.” Matthew 13:31-32

Put a pair of gloves on.

Pick up a bulb or seed, and hold it in your hand.

Look at it carefully. It is such a small thing, and yet from this, God can bring a beautiful plant.



Put some compost in your pot.

Plant the bulb in it.

The soil will keep it warm. Water and light will encourage it to grow. The bulb or seed in your hand was **dormant**, but given the right circumstances, it **comes alive**.

Now **think** for a minute about your life. It may seem small and insignificant. It may not look like much now. From you, God can bring forth great things.

What do you need to **grow**?



In the right circumstances of God’s love, we come alive!

Write, “All things are possible with God” around your plant pot to remind you of what God can do with your life.

As you look after your plant, make sure the soil stays slightly moist and watch it grow, think about what God is doing in your life day by day.