

Creating a Holy Space at Home

This Holy Week you are invited to create a holy space inside your home. This can become a place where you come to pray, reflect on Holy Week and the events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. I will be using a corner of my dining room and a small table. There's no need for anything expensive. You can use what you have at home! This could be a space you create for Holy Week alone or something you create and curate for this time of not being able to gather in the building of St John's (and beyond that!)

Some suggestions in how to create this space are below. You may wish to add to the space with objects reflecting the readings throughout the week (e.g. coins, something that smells good). The suggestion is that on Maundy Thursday you remove items from your holy space (as we would inside a church) and then return them on Easter Sunday.

First select a space and gather your religious items, these might include crosses, icons, images, framed pictures, rosaries and a Bible. Candles are good to have and incense or a room fragrancener of some kind. Perhaps you have some ornaments or statues that you wish to add (even sections of a nativity scene). You may wish to include a place to note those people and circumstances you are praying for, perhaps a bowl with slips of paper in it or a prayer tree. You may wish to cover a table with a piece of material (fabric, tablecloth, scarf, table mat, item of clothing) in appropriate liturgical colours. Palm Sunday – Wednesday of Holy Week: Red or Violet; Maundy Thursday: White; Good Friday none; White (or Gold) for the Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday and until Pentecost Eve.

You may wish to add a bowl of water to remember your Baptismal promises and from Easter Sunday onwards flowers and plants. Perhaps you want comfy seating or a view of God's creation as you pray and worship.

Some examples



Making an Easter Garden

Following a suggestion from Sarah-Jane, we're inviting people to create Easter Gardens in their homes (or gardens) and share images of them. Your Easter garden can be as elaborate or minimal as you wish (and you have material around). Perhaps you might wish to build a large one in a front garden or a tabletop sized one made of 'found' materials in your house (or even use Lego!). Easter Gardens give a visual representation of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. The key components are a tomb, a tombstone and three crosses alongside the garden in which to place them. As a nativity set is a visual representation at Christmas, so an Easter Garden can be at Easter.

The garden itself could be created a tray of soil, a tray of stones or even a cardboard box which you can place things into and onto, grouping them together. The decoration of the garden is up to you. Perhaps a vase of flowers, some moss, some potted plants, hand drawn flowers or artificial flowers (even Christmas wreaths) which you have in the house. You may wish to add the flowers or more flowers on Easter Sunday.

The three crosses can be made from sticks, fastening the cross pieces with string or twine. Other materials such as sticks, cardboard can be used. Place your crosses into your garden, if possible, on a hill you have fashioned. If one cross is larger than the others, place it in the middle for the cross Jesus was crucified on. These crosses remind us of Jesus' Crucifixion on Good Friday and those he was crucified alongside.

You will need a tomb and tombstone. The tomb could be a plant pot or yoghurt pot or a papier-mâché creation. For the tombstone you could use a larger stone or another object (perhaps even a rolled-up piece of paper). On Easter Sunday morning the tomb stone should be moved to reveal the empty tomb and Jesus' resurrection.

You might wish to create the garden early on in Holy Week and add the crosses, tomb and tombstone on Good Friday or create the garden as part of Good Friday devotions. There are many tutorials online about Easter Gardens, however, this is one way to focus on the resurrection of Jesus, the love of God and the hope of eternal life this Easter.



Easter Garden on Good Friday and Easter Sunday