

Easter Vigil

Introduction

Some will find it helpful to have a space as a focus for their prayer. This might include a crucifix, icon or other holy image, and a lighted candle.

Sign of the Cross

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

Liturgy of the Word

The Easter Vigil which begins with the lighting of the Paschal Candle is followed by a series of reading from the scriptures. Some will have time to read and reflect on all of the day's readings, these can be found on the Liturgy Office website [<http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Flu/index.shtml#HW-Pr>]. Others will wish to take time with just one of them: the Gospel follows. First the final psalm which also serves as an acclamation for the Gospel. Try to sing the response using an Alleluia you are familiar with from your parish.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23

℟: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.' ℟: | 3 The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
The work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. ℟: |
| 2 The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds. ℟: | |

Gospel

Matthew 28:1-10

He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you into Galilee.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

After the sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake, for the angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him, that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him." Now I have told you.' Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell the disciples.

And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings' he said. And the women came up to him and, falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Silent reflection

Pause for a moment of silent reflection.

Profession of Faith

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers

Intercessions

Pray for all those who have died from Coronavirus.
Pray for all those who are grieving.
Pray for all those waiting for new life.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father...

Concluding Prayer

O God,
your saving plan has brought us
to the glory of this night.
Slaves, we become your sons and daughters,
poor, your mercy makes us rich,
sinners, you count us among your saints.
Bring us to know the place that is ours
in the unfolding story of your purpose,
and instil in our hearts
the wonder of your salvation.
Grant this through Jesus Christ, our passover and our peace,
who lives with you now and always in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.
Amen.