

# Easter Vigil



## FAMILY CELEBRATION OF HOLY WEEK AND EASTER TRIDUUM AT HOME

1. During Holy Week the Church celebrates the mysteries of salvation accomplished by Christ in the last days of his life on earth, beginning with his messianic entrance into Jerusalem” (Paschalis Solemnitatis, 27).
2. “The greatest mysteries of the redemption are celebrated yearly by the Church beginning with the evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday until Vespers of Easter Sunday. This time is called “the triduum of the crucified, buried and risen”[42]; it is also called the “Easter Triduum” because the Paschal Mystery is celebrated, that is, the passing of the Lord from this world to his Father. The Church by the celebration of this mystery, through liturgical signs and sacramentals, is united to Christ her Spouse in intimate communion” (Paschalis Solemnitatis, 38).
3. Due to the prohibition of public gatherings during this period of social distancing, we will return to the practice of the early Church of celebrating the liturgy in the homes of Christians. These celebrations are based on the church document; *Celebration of Easter Triduum in the Absence of the Priest and the Directory for Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest*.
4. Priests in their parish churches or chapels will celebrate the liturgy of Holy Week and Easter Triduum without a public gathering. The members of the family may be able to participate in the liturgy through live streaming.  
[Live Stream Holy Week Liturgies](#)
5. A member of the family will lead the household in prayer for the evening liturgy of Holy Thursday, the afternoon liturgy of the Good Friday, and the liturgy of Easter Vigil.
6. For the washing of the feet on Holy Thursday a member of the family washes the feet of the other family members. Traditionally, gifts for the poor are brought during the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper. Project Compassion donations collected during the season of Lent can be sent to the Church later if contact is currently not possible. [Caritas Australia](#)
7. On Good Friday the members of the family can venerate their crucifix at home.
8. At the Easter Vigil, the Church keeps watch meditating on the wonderful story of God’s work of creation and salvation,
9. On Easter Sunday the assembly in the absence of a priest renew their baptismal promises. The family Easter candle is lit.

# FAMILY CELEBRATIONS OF HOLY WEEK AND EASTER TRIDUUM AT HOME

We are presenting for the benefit of our faithful Family Celebrations of the Holy Week and Easter Triduum with two options.

- a. following the live streaming of celebrations from the cathedral with some suggestions of rituals the members of the family can do at home.

**St Mary's Cathedral, Perth** [Live Stream Link](#)

- b. prayers/celebrations led by a member of the family following the church document, Easter Triduum Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest.

We reflect back to the experience of the early Church when Christians gathered to worship at home. This is an opportune time to encourage families to pray at home.

For families who opt to follow the live streaming of liturgical celebrations, we encourage you to consider the following activities.

## EASTER VIGIL

Prepare a candle that could serve as the family Easter candle and a reminder of the triumph of the Paschal Mystery in any human struggle of crisis.

The family members participate in the Renewal of Baptismal Promises.

After the renewal, as a reminder of Baptism, they can trace the sign of the cross at each other's forehead.

A family meal is shared after the celebration.

The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil takes place at night. It should not begin before nightfall nor end after daybreak on Sunday.

The night Vigil is arranged in the following format:

1. Service of light;
2. Liturgy of the Word, when the Church meditates on all the wonderful things God has done for the world.
3. Renewal of Baptismal Promises.
4. Prayer which spiritually units us with Christ.

**You may wish to use all or part of this ritual for you at home.**

### Preparation

Table with a white cloth. Place on the table:

- Candles and matches
- Bible
- Decorate with flowers
- Decorated Easter candle
- Bells

## SERVICE OF LIGHT

All the lights in the house are turned off. There is an option to prepare a bonfire at a suitable place outside the house if the local laws permit. The family prepares a candle that can serve as the family Easter candle.

The leader briefly instructs the family gathered about the vigil in these words:

On this holy night  
when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life,  
we come together in solemn vigil and prayer in union with the whole Church  
and with our parish community. This is the Passover of the Lord:  
if we keep the memory of his death and resurrection by hearing his word and celebrating his sacraments, then we may be confident  
that we shall share his victory over death and live with him forever in God.  
Let us pray. Lord God,  
we share in the brightness of your glory through your Son, the light of the world.  
Make this new fire holy.  
Through this Easter celebration,  
purify our minds and inflame us with new hope,  
that we may come one day to the feast of eternal light. We ask this through Jesus  
Christ our Lord.

A family member lights the Easter candle from the new fire saying:

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,  
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

After the lighting of the Easter candle the leader holds it high and says:  
Christ our light.

The members of the family answer:

Thanks be to God.

The members of the family light their candles from the Easter candle.



A member of the family sings or recites prayerfully the Easter proclamation (Exultet) with other members of the family holding their lighted candles.

Music Link: [Exultet](#)

## THE EXULTET

Exult and sing, O heavenly choirs of angels!  
Rejoice, all you powers in heaven and on earth!  
Jesus Christ our King is risen!  
Sound the trumpet, sing of our salvation!

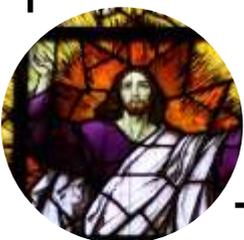
Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,  
radiant in the brightness of your king!  
Lands that once lay covered by darkness,  
see Christ's glory filling all the universe!

Rejoice, O mother Church, with all your children,  
resplendent in your risen Saviour's light!  
Let our joyful voices resound this night!  
Let God's people shake these walls with shouts of praise!

It is truly right and just  
That with full hearts and minds and voices,  
we should praise you, unseen God,  
almighty Father, and your only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.  
For Christ ransomed us with his precious blood  
and, by nailing to the cross the decree that condemned us,  
he paid to you, eternal Father, the price of Adam's sin.

This is our Passover feast,  
when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain,  
whose blood consecrates the homes of all believers.

This is the night  
when first you set the children of Israel free:  
you saved our ancestors from slavery in Egypt  
and led them dry-shod through the sea.



This is the night  
when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death  
and in triumphant glory rose from the grave.

O God, how wonderful your care for us!  
How boundless your merciful love!  
To ransom a slave, you gave up a Son!

O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam  
which gained for us so great a Redeemer!

How holy is this night,  
which heals our wounds and washes all evil away!

A night to restore lost innocence and bring mourners joy!  
O truly blessed night  
When heaven is wedded to earth  
And we are reconciled with God!  
Therefore, Father most holy, in the joy of this night,  
Receive our evening sacrifice of praise,  
The solemn offering of your holy people.  
Accept this Easter candle.  
Let it dispel the darkness of this night!

May the Morning Star which never sets  
finds this flame still burning.  
Christ is the Morning Star,  
who rose to shed his peaceful light on all creation  
and lives and reigns with you for ever and ever.  
Amen.

After the Easter proclamation, the candles are blown out  
and all lights are turned on.



## LITURGY OF THE WORD

Before the readings, a member of the family explains the Liturgy of the Word in these words:

We have begun our solemn vigil.

Let us now listen attentively to the Scriptures.

They tell how God saved a chosen people  
in the course of history and, in the fullness of time,  
sent his only begotten Son as our Redeemer.

Let us pray that our God will bring to completion  
the saving work of the paschal mystery.

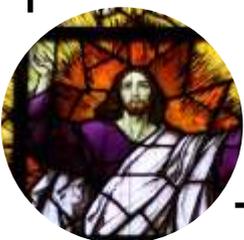
### READING      Exodus 14:15-15:1

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to me so? Tell the sons of Israel to march on. For yourself, raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and part it for the sons of Israel to walk through the sea on dry ground. I for my part will make the heart of the Egyptians so stubborn that they will follow them. So shall I win myself glory at the expense of Pharaoh, of all his army, his chariots, his horsemen. And when I have won glory for myself, at the expense of Pharaoh and his chariots and his army, the Egyptians will learn that I am the Lord.'

Then the angel of the Lord, who marched at the front of the army of Israel, changed station and moved to their rear. The pillar of cloud changed station from the front to the rear of them, and remained there. It came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. The cloud was dark, and the night passed without the armies drawing any closer the whole night long. Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove back the sea with a strong easterly wind all night, and he made dry land of the sea. The waters parted and the sons of Israel went on dry ground right into the sea, walls of water to right and to left of them.

The Egyptians gave chase: after them they went, right into the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots and his horsemen. In the morning watch, the Lord looked down on the army of the Egyptians from the pillar of fire and of cloud and threw the army into confusion. He so clogged their chariot wheels that they could scarcely make headway. 'Let us flee from the Israelites,' the Egyptians cried, 'the Lord is fighting for them against the Egyptians!'



‘Stretch out your hand over the sea,’ the Lord said to Moses, ‘that the waters may flow back on the Egyptians and their chariots and their horsemen.’

Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and, as day broke, the sea returned to its bed. The fleeing Egyptians marched right into it and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the very middle of the sea. The returning waters overwhelmed the chariots and the horsemen of Pharaoh’s whole army, which had followed the Israelites into the sea; not a single one of them was left. But the sons of Israel had marched through the sea on dry ground, walls of water to right and to left of them. That day, the Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. Israel witnessed the great act that the Lord had performed against the Egyptians, and the people venerated the Lord; they put their faith in the Lord and in Moses, his servant.

It was then that Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song in honour of the Lord:  
The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Exodus 15:1-6, 17-18

[YouTube Link: Psalm](#)

**R.** Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!  
Horse and rider has thrown into the sea!  
The Lord is my strength, my song, my salvation.  
this is my God and I extol him,  
my father’s God and I give him praise.

**R.** Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

The Lord is a warrior! The Lord is his name.  
The chariots of Pharaoh he hurled into the sea,  
the flower of his army is drowned in the sea.  
The deeps hide them; they sank like a stone.

**R.** Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.



Your right hand, Lord, glorious in its power,  
your right hand, Lord, has shattered the enemy.  
In the greatness of your glory you crushed the foe.

R. Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

You will lead your people  
and plant them on your mountain,  
the place, O Lord, where you have made your home,  
the sanctuary, Lord, which your hands have made.  
The Lord will reign for ever and ever.

R. Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

### PRAYER

Leader:

God of ages,  
through the light of the new covenant,  
you unlock for us the meaning of those  
marvels you worked in ancient times:  
the waters of the Red Sea  
prefigure the waters of baptism,  
and the Israelites you once freed from slavery  
become a sign of your Christian people.  
Grant that every nation by virtue of its faith  
may inherit the same privilege you bestowed  
on Israel and receive new birth through the gift of your Spirit.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.



The candles on the family altar are now lit and the Gloria is sung or recited while bells are rung.

**Music Link:** [Gloria](#)

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.



Leader:

Let us pray. O God,  
you brighten this most holy night  
with the radiance of the risen Christ.  
Quicken within your Church the spirit of adoption,  
so that, renewed in mind and body,  
we may dedicate our lives wholeheartedly to your service.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, you Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 117: 1-2, 16-17, 22-23R.

Music Link: [Alleluia](#)

R. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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.'

R. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Lord's right hand has triumphed.  
his right hand raised me up.  
I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount his deeds.

R. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.

R. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.



## GOSPEL Matthew 28:1-10

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.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## SILENT REFLECTION



## RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

All stand holding lit candles for the renewal of their baptismal promises.

**Leader:**

Through the paschal mystery  
we have been buried with Christ in baptism,  
so that we may rise with him to a new life.  
Now that we have completed our Lenten observance,  
let us renew the promises we made in baptism  
when we renounced Satan and all the work of evil,  
and promised to serve God faithfully  
in the holy Catholic Church. And so:

**All:**

We renounce Satan,  
and all his works,  
and all his empty promises.

We believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord who  
was born of the Virgin Mary,  
Suffered death and was buried,  
rose again from the dead and  
is seated at the right hand of the Father.

We 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.

After the renewal of Baptismal Promises and as a reminder of Baptism, the members of the family may wish to trace the sign of the cross at on each other's forehead.



## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Leader:

The light of the risen Christ  
shines forth from the Easter Candle.

May the flame of faith in our hearts inspire us  
as we offer prayers for the needs of all our brothers and sisters.

For every petition, let us say:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

A member of the family:

For the Universal Church,  
that, with our Pope and Bishops, we may proclaim the saving event of Easter.

We pray.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the nations of this world,  
that the kingdom of the risen Lord may spread through all societies and cultures.

We pray.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who have been baptized at this time, that,  
freed from slavery of sin, they will live in the new life of the risen Christ.

We pray.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For this our worshipping community,  
that we will share the joyous news of the Resurrection with those we meet.

We pray.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the faithful departed,  
that, having died with Christ, they will return to life with him.

We pray.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.



**Leader:**

Father,  
receive the prayers of your Church,  
family celebrating the glorious victory  
of your risen Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Leader:**

Let us prayer as Jesus taught us:

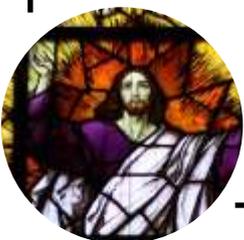
**All:** Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

After the Lord's Prayer the leader invites the members of the family to offer a sign of peace to each other.

The leader of prayer invites the members of the family to pray:

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**All:** Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I long for You in my soul.  
Since I cannot not receive You sacramentally  
in the fulness of the Eucharist,  
Your presence in the Gospel and small community  
gathered fill me with your spirit of hope and love.  
I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You;  
never permit me to be separated from You.



All stand and the leader recites the following prayer.

Leader:

Let us pray.

Eternal God,

watch over your Church with unfailing care, that we who have received new life through the paschal mystery of Christ may come to the glory of the resurrection.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord .

Now that we have celebrated the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us go and proclaim the Word we have heard

and live according to the call to be people of faith, hope and love .

And may almighty God bless you,

The Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

### FINAL SONG

Music link: [Jesus is Risen! Let us Sing!](#)

[Hymn Lyrics](#)

The family may like to share an Easter meal.





Original Ritual produced by  
Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission Manila  
Adapted by Centre for Liturgy, Perth for use in Australia