

Holy Saturday

Reading: Mark 15:42-47

The family together make an Easter garden on a tray or plate. An Easter garden includes a model of a cave, with a stone that can be rolled away on Easter Day. (The cave represents the tomb where Jesus was buried.) Spring flowers are traditionally included in the garden. Use your creativity.

Easter Sunday



Light seven candles (the circle of six and the special Easter candle in the centre circle). Roll away the stone from the cave/tomb and light a candle beside it. Have on the table: spring flowers beside the circle of candles, Easter eggs, and whatever else you like to make the table festive.

Reading: John 20:11-18 or Mark 16:1-7

Question: 'Why do we have Easter eggs and all these flowers and candles today?'

Answer: 'Because today is Easter Day. Holy Week is over! Today we remember that Jesus rose from the dead and showed us the new life God offers to all of us, not just after we die but through the difficult bits of living now.'

If sufficiently extrovert, people cheer or shout Alleluia!

(Based on Chris Polhill in Eggs and Ashes: Practical and Liturgical Resources for Lent and Holy Week by Ruth Burgess and Chris Polhill. Wild Goose Publications, 2004)

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Home Liturgy for Holy Week

This liturgy takes place each day during Holy Week, at the family table, during a meal. The youngest person able to ask the questions.

Items needed: *Six candles (one of them red for Good Friday) in holders; a palm cross; a copy of the Lord's Prayer; a bottle of perfume; a purse filled with money; a bowl of perfumed water and a hand towel; a wooden cross; the makings of an Easter garden; a special Easter candle.*

Palm Sunday



Place the six candles on the family table and arrange them in the shape of a circle. Light the candles. Place a palm cross (brought from church?) on the table, in the centre of the circle of candles.

Reading: Mark 11:1-11

Question: 'Why do we have six candles and this palm cross on the table today?'

Answer: 'Because this week is Holy Week. In six days it's Good Friday, and Easter is coming. Today we remember how all the people welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem by waving palm branches.'

Monday of Holy Week

Light five candles (of the circle of six), four white and one red. Place a copy of the Lord's Prayer on the table, in the centre of the circle of candles.

Reading: Mark 11:15-19

Question: 'Why do we have five candles and the Lord's Prayer on the table today?'



Answer: 'Because this week is Holy Week. In five days it's Good Friday, and Easter is coming. Today we remember that Jesus threw the money-changers out of the temple. "My house shall be called a place of prayer," he told them. His special prayer, the "Our Father", is for us all.'

Say or read the Lord's Prayer together.

Tuesday of Holy Week

Light four candles, three white and one red. Place a bottle of perfume on the table, in the centre of the circle of candles.

Reading: Mark 14:3-9

Question: 'Why do we have four candles and some perfume on the table today?'

Answer: 'Because this week is Holy Week. In four days it's Good Friday, and Easter is coming. Today we remember the woman from Bethany who anointed Jesus' head, and who recognised that he was the King of kings and would soon die.'

Wednesday of Holy Week

Light three candles, two white and one red. Place a purse filled with money in the centre of the circle of candles.

Reading: Mark 14:10-11

Question: 'Why do we have three candles and this purse full of money on the table?'

Answer: 'Because this week is Holy Week. In three days it's Good Friday, and Easter is coming. Today we remember that Jesus was betrayed for money, and that Jesus wants us to give what we can to help those in the world who are poor.'

(The family could discuss right and wrong ways of using money, in the light of today's and yesterday's readings.)

Maundy Thursday

Light two candles, one white and one red. Have a bowl of warm water and a towel on the table between them. The family wash each others' hands before the meal. The meal could include elements of a Passover meal (unleavened bread, wine...).



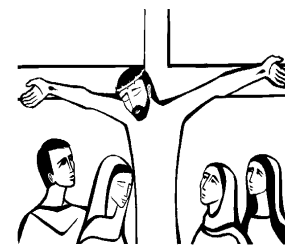
Reading: Mark 14:22-26; John 13:2-5, 12-15

Question: 'Why do we have two candles and this towel and water on the table today?'

Answer: 'Because this is Holy Week. One candle is for Good Friday, and one is for today, Maundy Thursday. Today we remember the last Passover meal that Jesus celebrated with his disciples. Our Eucharist developed from this meal. To show his disciples how to serve each other, Jesus washed their feet before the meal.'

Good Friday

The one red candle is lit - and then blown out. A wooden cross is placed on the table. The palm cross is blu-tacked to the front door until the Sunday after Easter or until Pentecost.



Question: 'Why did we blow out the candle today, and why is it red?'

Answer: 'Today is Good Friday. This is day that we remember that Jesus shed his blood and died - to save the world.'

Reading: Mark 15:21-39

Everyone is quiet for a few minutes.