

Setting the Scene to Pray Holy Week at Home

To help us move through the liturgies of Holy Week in this time of absence, we could arrange an altar or create a space of comfort where we could go and pray.

Getting Started

- Set aside a space to create a sacred place where you can sit to ponder the beautiful prayers of Holy Week.
- With this lovely weather it could be outside in the garden or a corner in a room. It doesn't have to be large space or complicated, just a place where you feel comfortable and peaceful.
- You will need to be able to close off outside noise and interference as best as you can; so that you are not distracted.
- Find a comfortable chair or cushions on the floor for this space.
- A table or place where you can lay a cloth and add a candle, a bible on a stand of sought, so it looks special and if you have one, a cross or a crucifix. As it is Lent, the colour you add to the space is purple. Keep the space very simple but worthy. 'Noble simplicity' as *Sacrosanctum Concilium* says.
- The sound of running water of a fountain adds another dimension to the environment, if you have one. If you wish light some incense. You are catering for all your senses then.
- Light the candle every time you gather or sit in your sacred space.

ENTERING
THE DOOR
OF
HOLY WEEK



Passion Sunday – Palm Sunday

The liturgical colour is red and the symbol is palm frond/s.

Have your sacred place set as above so it suits you and your family.

Have the text you want to use from the liturgy of Passion Sunday available and have some idea who you want to read them. **Download:** [Palm Sunday Readings](#)

Add a few palm fronds and some red cloth to the environment. You can create your own scene. Reflect on your experience of past Palm Sundays.

Gather your family, each with their own palm frond and listen to the readings and prayers for Palm Sunday. If you are familiar with songs from this day sing along as best as you can.

Music Links:

[All, Glory, Laud and Honour](#)

[Jesus, Remember Me](#)

Concluded your Palm Sunday reflections with a prayer.

Remove the red cloth and the palm fronds after the day has passed.

Go back to the Lenten purple.



Days of Holy Week

In prayer, follow the Missal for each weekday of Holy Week or use the Liturgy of the Hours as a resource.

Link to : [Liturgy of the Hours](#)

Pray the Rosary at a particular time of the day and invite others to do the same in their **spaces**.

YouTube Link: [Pray the Rosary](#)

Download: [Rosary Text](#)



Holy Thursday – Thursday of the Lord's Supper

The liturgical colour is white, and a symbol could be a loaf of bread and some grapes. Or you may like to have a large bowl and a jug with a towel or even all the elements. Remember, simplicity is the key.

As night comes, prepare your space for the next day. Remove the crucifix, remove the white cloth and replace it with red.

Download: [Holy Thursday Prayer](#) [scroll to Holy Thursday]

Music Links:

[As I have Done for You](#)

[Ubi Caritas \(Taize\)](#)



Good Friday – The Passion of the Lord



Ensure the space is bare in keeping with the liturgy of Good Friday.

Instead of removing the crucifix, you could cover it with red cloth.

Commence your prayer time in silence. Time to ponder.

Complete your prayer time in silence; just leave the space.

Leave the space bare until Saturday night. You may wish to return to the space to reflect.

Download Text: [Passion Narrative of Our Lord](#)
[scroll to Good Friday]

Music Links:

[Were You There](#)

[Behold the Cross](#)

Link to: [Stations of the Cross](#)



Holy Saturday

Prepare your space in the afternoon.

The liturgical colour is white or gold. Add either colour to your space.

You could express the Easter joy with colourful flowers.

In keeping with the rhythm of the liturgy start your prayer time in the dark. Light your own candle from the main one in your space as you listen to scripture.

Download: [Praying on Holy Saturday](#)

Or you could have your own fire in a pit if authorities allow a fire to be lit.

Sing the 'alleluia'!

Music Link: [Celtic Alleluia](#)

Pray for the needs of the world. Complete your prayer time with a song.

Music Link:

[Jesus is Risen](#)

[Sing to the Mountains](#)

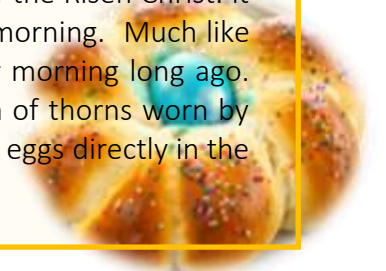
[Easter Dismissal](#)



Leave your prayer space setup for the rest of the Easter Season 13 April – 31 May 2020.

[Italian Easter Bread](#) [click to go to you tube recipe]

Each year on Holy Saturday, many Italian families follow a particular tradition which is rich with symbolism. The making of Italian Easter Bread. This mildly sweet breakfast bread with its creamy, sweet glaze and colored eggs poking up is a symbol of the Risen Christ. It was a sacred Holy Saturday tradition to prepare the bread for Easter morning. Much like Christ's body was prepared for burial—only to rise on that first Easter morning long ago. It can also be baked in the shape of a wreath to symbolize the crown of thorns worn by Jesus Christ at the crucifixion. The bread is either baked with coloured eggs directly in the dough or with white eggs that can be decorated after baking.



Easter Sunday

Pray, reflect, sing for the world!

Download: [Easter Sunday Prayer](#)
[scroll to Easter Sunday]

Music Links:

[Glory in the Cross](#)

[This Day was Made by the Lord](#)

[Jesus is Risen](#)

[Sing to the Mountains](#)



Finally

If you have enjoyed changing your space and praying in accordance with the liturgies, keep going for the Sundays of the Easter Season ending at Pentecost 31 May 2020.

Perhaps we will be back in our churches by then.

Lord, we pray for a perfect end to the suffering of this virus in the world and give us each the strength to cry Amen! Alleluia! unceasingly.

Lord, hear our prayer.