

## Make your own Easter Garden

You could spread this activity out over four days in Holy Week, begin it on Maundy Thursday and finish it on Easter Day

You will need:

- a container for your garden: I've used an old seed tray, but you could also use an empty food tray, a foil container, a cardboard box lined with something to make it waterproof
- some soil or sand: enough to fill your tray plus a little more to create a hill
- some stones: larger ones to create the tomb and smaller ones to make a path, or if you can't find any stones in your garden you could use Lego, toy bricks, or thick cardboard
- some twigs to make three crosses: or you could use lolly sticks
- some string or glue: to hold the twigs or sticks together
- some greenery: maybe some small plants from your garden, or cut greenery that will last a few days – you will need to dampen the soil or wrap the cut ends in damp cotton-wool
- some flowers for Easter Day: from your garden, or made from paper
- if you're using fresh flowers, don't cut them until Easter Day: you will also need a little pot of water to put them in
- and finally: a small piece of white fabric or tissue and a tea-light



### Maundy Thursday

- 1 Fill your container with soil or sand. If there's room, make a hill in one corner.
- 2 In another corner build a tomb. (You could cover the tomb with soil or sand as well if you like.)  
Add a path leading to the tomb.  
Save a piece of flat stone or thick cardboard for closing the tomb on Good Friday.
- 3 Add some greenery.

You might like to say the special prayer for Palm Sunday:

***True and humble king,  
hailed by the crowd as the Messiah:  
grant us the faith to know you and love you,  
that we may be found beside you  
on the way of the cross,  
which is the path of glory.***



## Good Friday

- 1 Make three crosses out of your twigs or lolly sticks – tie or glue them together – and fix them into the hill
- 2 At the end of the day, put your piece of white cloth in the tomb, to represent Jesus' body wrapped in cloth
- 3 Close the tomb with a stone or piece of cardboard

You might like to say the special prayer for Good Friday:

***Eternal God, in the cross of Jesus  
we see the cost of our sin and the depth of your love:  
in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet  
all that we have and all that we are,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

## Holy Saturday (Easter Eve)

- 1 There is nothing you can do today – you can only wait.

But you might like to say the special prayer for Easter Eve:

***In the depths of our isolation we cry to you, Lord God:  
give light in our darkness and bring us out  
of the prison of our despair,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

## Easter Day

- 1 Today you can open the tomb and put the flowers in your Easter garden.
- 2 Light the tea-light and put it inside the empty tomb – but please make sure you put the light out at the end of the day or if you need to go out.

You might like to say the special prayer for Easter Day:

***God of glory,  
by the raising of your Son  
you have broken the chains of death and hell:  
fill your Church with faith and hope,  
for a new day has dawned  
and the way to life stands open  
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.***

**Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!  
Alleluia!**

