

## Easter Saturday Prayer for Families 2021

### Acknowledgment of Land, Seas Skies and Waterways

As we reflect on Easter Saturday, at a time that is largely silent in both Scripture and our Easter remembrance, it is a timely reminder of the time we have spent in Silence when acknowledging the truths and hurts of our past. During this period of contemplation, in the knowing of the resurrection story, we acknowledge the First Nations Peoples of these lands, seas and waterways for many thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of First Nations Peoples to these places and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

### Context of Easter Saturday (By Marina Berzins McCoy [accessed here](#))

After the powerful days of Holy Thursday and Good Friday, knowing how to pray on Holy Saturday can feel a bit uncertain. Easter has not yet arrived, and yet the intensity of praying with the Passion has passed. Although surely there are practical things to do in order to get ready for Easter; skipping over Holy Saturday never feels quite right to me. At the same time, how to proceed prayerfully can be unclear. Until the Easter Vigil, there is no Mass to attend, although we can pray with the beautiful psalms of Morning Prayer from the Divine Office. It is an in-between time of waiting.



Figure 1 Easter Matins. Fine Art. Britannica ImageQuest, Encyclopædia Britannica,

### Scripture

#### An Invitation to Abundant Life

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;  
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

### Reflection by Bec Burns

#### Consultant Formation, Identity and Outreach Directorate, Cairns Diocese

Easter Saturday can be seen as a time of limbo, uncertainty and perhaps even real confusion. The promise we read of in the Psalm and the Gospel seems so far away. It is only one day after the loss of someone who was so important to many. What were the people of the time thinking at this moment? Jesus' followers, the soldiers that guarded the body, those who put the spear in his side, Pontius Pilate; I wonder how they were feeling or if they reflected on this at all. For those closest to Jesus, as many of us know too well, perhaps they were feeling deep emptiness, where nothing makes sense, not knowing what to do next. Sleep, food and general living can perhaps seemed hazy and more like a nightmare than reality. Ann



Figure 2 Easter Matins. Fine Art. Britannica ImageQuest, Encyclopædia Britannica, 25 May 2016.

Rennie, in her Australian Catholic Article, [Crossing the Threshold](#), words it in this way:

*Sometimes these liminal moments elicit a sense of the world at a strange and perhaps unnerving standstill. We have left one place but have yet to arrive at the other. These liminal moments occur during rites of passage. We move from the expectant woman to mother, from student to graduate as we await university results, from parent to grandparent, from worker to retiree, from child to adolescent to adult. Life events such as the loss of a loved one, divorce or being made redundant can propel us into the liminal state where we are not who we were before. We are in a state of in-between-ness where there is no going back, only a forward momentum that we may or may not recognise at the time. It is no longer life as we have known it. Transformation is taking place, just as it does, immutably, during the seasons of the year. The writer Nancy Levin reminds us that it is important to honour the space between no longer and not yet. We need to be patient. We will have crossed over, sometimes, without being aware of the actual moment of transition. What comes next is meant to be. Hebrews 6:25 tells us: 'And so it was that she having waited long and endured patiently realised and obtained what God had promised.' When we find ourselves released from these liminal times, we step onto the holy ground of new being ready for the next chapter in life's great mission possible.*

A question that comes into focus is: what do we do while we wait, and how do we help our children travel through these times, wanting to stop the pain and knowing that these parts of our lives are inevitable and are forming our children as we watch? Interrupting and stopping this formation may not be helpful. Encouraging feeling, reflecting and prayer during these times, could be ways to support our children during these experiences.

### Prayer

Dear God,

Grant our family the patience to sit in the silence and uneasiness of Easter Saturday.

Grant us the courage to feel the emptiness and sadness during this time of the unknown.

Grant us the hope in the hard times of our lives and a deep sense of love to ensure we support each other in times of waiting and uncertainty.

We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord,

Amen



Figure 3 Heralds of the Resurrection by Nikolay Ghe, 1867, [Tretyakov Gallery](#)

### Call to Action

1. Attend the Vigil Mass this Easter, explaining to your children it is a long service that provides many opportunities for reflection on how they have found Term One at School. Is there anything they can think of that they have had to work through and what helped them the most during this time. After Mass talk about these times.
2. Reflect on times as a family that have been hard and what helped you through the tough moments.