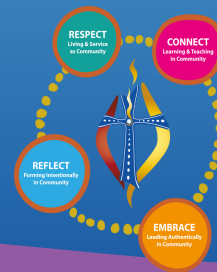


# Family Prayer

## Good Friday - 30 March 2024

by Kirby Will, Consultant Formation: Identity and Outreach



We acknowledge the First Nations peoples of this land, the Traditional Custodians who celebrated the rituals of their ancestors in community. We recognise their enduring connection to the land, seas, skies, and waterways on the lands that we are guest upon. We show respect to the Elders who shared the memories, traditions, and stories of the First People, as they danced, sang, and yarned. May we honour the wisdom of the First Peoples and work together towards a hope-filled future towards truth and healing.

### Context

#### The Easter Vigil

In the Catholic tradition, the Paschal Triduum concludes with the Easter Vigil and the Church replaces her sense of mourning with a sense of anticipation. The celebration of the Easter Vigil is unlike any other celebration in the Church year! There are typically four parts to the Vigil: The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil, Liturgy of the Word, Baptismal Liturgy and Liturgy of the Eucharist- each contributing to the grandeur of this night of nights for the Church.



Shutterstock stock illustration ID: 569517097. Easter candle - Abstract artistic pastel style Christian religious background. By Thoom.

### Scripture

#### Psalm 32:4-7.12-13.20.22

**R: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.**

The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. R

By God's word the heavens were made, by the breath of their mouth all the stars. God collects the waves of the ocean, and stores up the depths of the sea. R

They are happy, whose God is the Lord, the people God has chosen as their own. From the heavens the Lord looks forth, and sees all the children of humankind. R

Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. R



## Reflection by Kirby Will Project Officer Identity and Outreach

The Easter Vigil includes a large amount of Scripture compared to the volume Catholic masses typically have included in the liturgies of the Church. There are seven readings and Psalms, followed by the Epistle and then the Gospel. Whilst the Scripture included in this prayer is one of the options for the first Psalm, it is likely not one that is commonly heard.

Nevertheless, the message of the response is an important one for believers to remember in the wake of the devastation of Good Friday and the state of the world at present: the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord!

The events of Good Friday can often be a time when some might question the goodness of the Lord; it is hard to reconcile the death of Jesus as being necessary for good to prevail. So too, when we hear the news and pause and consider what is happening in our world and present. It can be hard to reconcile the events and experiences as reflecting that the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. The Easter Vigil, however, reminds Catholics that this goodness does exist and that no matter what has already happened, they should anticipate the goodness of the Lord to prevail once more. As Christians around the world prepare to celebrate the Resurrection and Easter Season, they remember that the earth is indeed full of God's goodness and can bring joy to followers of Christ.

## Prayer

This prayer is from **Holy Week at Home** published by **Liturgical Press**.

Loving God,  
We celebrate your saving work  
through our ancestors in faith,  
the Resurrection of your Son,  
and in our own lives today.  
Give us the courage to confront the darkness of this world,  
knowing that the Risen Christ brings light and life to all.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

## Call to Action

- Attend an Easter Vigil at your local parish.
- Gather the family around a bonfire in the backyard or light a candle. Talk about it: The Easter Vigil begins with the symbol of fire. Talk about how fire represents that Jesus is the light of the world. He brings light to the darkness and new life to a sleeping world. What are some other symbols of resurrection? (Water, the colour white, the transformation of a butterfly, Easter eggs, etc.).
- Pray the **Exultet** together.

Easter vigil. Photo. Britannica ImageQuest, Encyclopædia Britannica, 25 May 2016. [quest.eb.com/images/300\\_255166](http://quest.eb.com/images/300_255166). Accessed 27 Mar 2024.