



## Church at Home: Holy Saturday

Welcome to the last day of Lent. Today we will be waiting with Jesus' friends...we'll find out what happened on the day after Jesus died and get ready for tomorrow - Easter Day!

Are you good at waiting? What sort of things do we have to wait for? Do you find it easy to wait? Who in your family is the best at waiting?

**Challenge** everyone to wait for a minute. All should stand up – on the signal, the leader starts a stopwatch. When you think a minute is up, then sit down. Who was closest to a minute?

**Story:** This is what happened after Jesus died. Find Luke chapter 23 verse 50 in your Bible or read it here from the CEV Bible.

*There was a man named Joseph, who was from Arimathea in Judea. Joseph was a good and honest man, and he was eager for God's kingdom to come. He*

*was also a member of the council, but he did not agree with what they had decided.*

*Joseph went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. He took the body down from the cross and wrapped it in fine cloth. Then he put it in a tomb that had been cut out of solid rock and had never been used. It was Friday, and the Sabbath was about to begin.*

*The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and watched how Jesus' body was placed in the*

*tomb. Then they went to prepare some sweet-smelling spices for his burial. But on the Sabbath they rested, as the Law of Moses commands.*

Jesus was killed on Friday, and his friends hurried to put his body into the tomb before the Sabbath day of rest began. On the Sabbath, it would be breaking the Jewish law to make the body ready for burial. The women went home to prepare and wait for the Sabbath to end. They would go back to the tomb first thing on

Sunday morning to finish the job, after the day of rest.

Some things to think and talk about:

- I wonder how the women felt, waiting for the Sabbath to be over?
- I wonder what feelings you have after hearing today's story?
- I wonder where you are in the story?



In the church, the day after Good Friday is traditionally known as Easter Eve or Holy Saturday. It is a day without services or formal meetings. In many ways, it is an ordinary day. Everyone has a chance to rest, to be still and get themselves ready for Easter Day.

**BUT** waiting can be hard to do!

**Pray:** Place a pebble on the table in your prayer zone to remember the big stone that closed the tomb and tell God about the things you are struggling with

- At home, as we are living through the covid epidemic 'lockdown' restrictions
- As you think about Jesus' death on Good Friday and the feelings that brings up
- Being separated from friends and the rest of your family

It is OK to feel sad. Sometimes grownups say that we are living in dark times. You may be feeling worried or feel that God has abandoned us, but in the darkness, in the tomb where Jesus' body lay, God was there. And the good news is that he is with us now too.

Now light the candle on your prayer zone table as a reminder that Jesus is the Light for the world. You may like to read out some of these words from the Bible to encourage each other.

- *Jesus said, "I am the light for the world! Follow me, and you won't be walking in the dark. You will have the light that gives life." John 8:12*
- *The light keeps shining in the dark, and darkness has never put it out. John 1:5*
- *You used to be like people living in the dark, but now you are people of the light because you belong to the Lord. So act like people of the light and make your light shine. Eph 5:8-10*
- *You can see the darkness fading away and the true light already shining. 1 John 2:8*



**Activity Zone:** Here are two activities you could try that need you to wait! As you work, look for ways you can see light and colour shining through.

### *DIY Scratch Art:*



You will need: shiny card or patterned paper; sticky backed plastic or laminating pouches and a laminator; washing-up liquid, black paint, a paintbrush; a cocktail stick

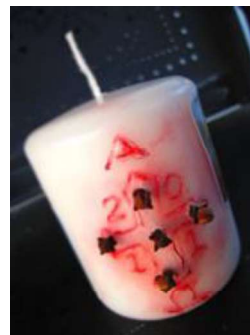
1. Cover the patterned paper with sticky backed plastic, or laminate it. If you're using shiny card, you won't need to do this.

2. Mix one part washing up liquid with two parts black paint. Paint over the patterned card.

3. Wait for the paint to dry, then put on another coat.

4. When the second coat is dry, you can use the cocktail stick to scratch a design into the black paint. As you're doing this, think about places or people that need to know the Light of Jesus bringing colour to darkness.

### *Prepare an Easter Candle*



You will need: a candle, blunt pencil, paint, baby wipe, 5 cloves (optional)

- Take a wax candle. Mark your design using a blunt pencil. Traditional decorations are a cross, the year, the symbols for alpha and omega, but you'll find lots more ideas if you search online.

- Paint over your design. Wipe excess paint off with a baby wipe.

- Leave to dry.

- Poke holes using a pencil in each arm of the cross, and in the centre. Push in cloves.

Light your candle and pray for people who are feeling sad and lonely. You could use your candle for Church at Home throughout the Easter season.

Here is a song you could listen to while you wait:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DsTsRxqNANK&feature=youtu.be>

'The Stone' by Sam Hargraves

The stone is rolled to seal the grave,  
the soldiers stand to guard the door;  
the years of hope, the hearts of faith,  
cold as the tomb, dead as their Lord.

The tears of anger and regret,  
the cock has crowed, the traitor fled;  
disciples frightened and confused,  
where once was peace, now only dread.

Where can they go, where can they run?  
His words were true, eternal life;  
yet even Christ has felt death's sting,  
sin's curse extinguishing love's light.

We stand with them, with the bereaved,  
stand with the broken, torn and bruised;  
we hold our doubts, our tears, our pain,  
and, by our nails, hold to the truth.

There is a sun we cannot see,  
a resurrection yet to dawn,  
a hope that holds us through the night,  
a path that leads to Easter morn.

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DIY Scratch Art idea from: <http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2020/04/holy-saturday-craft-video.html> [accessed 15 April 2020].

Easter Candle idea from: <https://www.catholicicing.com/craft-easter-candle-with-kids/> [accessed 15 April 2020].

Artwork for your Easter (Paschal) Candle is available here: <https://churchpop.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/WhatsApp-Image-2018-03-15-at-2.53.49-PM.jpeg> [accessed 15 April 2020].

'The tomb of Jesus' image <https://www.pxfuel.com/en/free-photo-exyxw> [accessed 15 April 2020].

All Scripture is from Contemporary English Bible. You can access many different translations here <https://www.biblegateway.com/>