

Make an Easter Garden

Making an Easter garden is a lovely Christian tradition and a creative way to retell the Easter story.

You might like to start by reading the story of the empty tomb on the next page, it describes what happened when Jesus' friends visited the tomb on Easter Sunday morning and the good news that they discovered there.

Alternatively you could watch this animated film, [God's Wonderful Surprise](#) or there's another version of the story here ["What the Gardener Saw"](#) (perhaps you could create your own story map afterwards as a way of retelling the story?)



Try making a garden to recreate the morning when Christians believe Jesus came back to life. You'll need a tray, with a flowerpot on its side for the cave, a stone for the entrance to the tomb, some grass or moss and flowers. Christians usually add a cross made of twigs, to remind them of the Easter message.

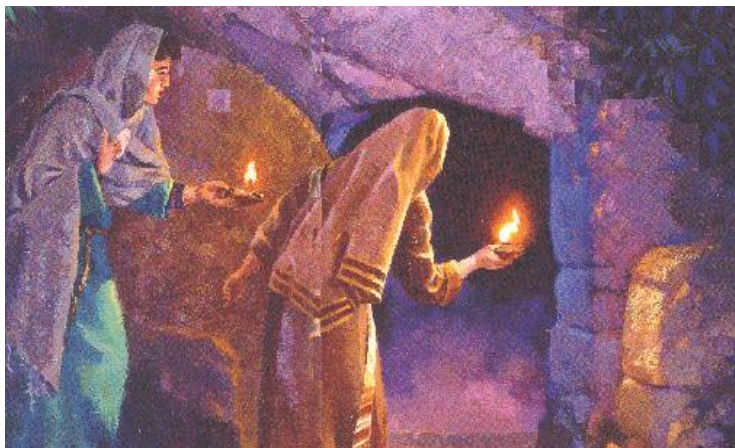
You could add people too if you wanted, who do you think you'd need?

There are lots of pictures on the Internet to give you some ideas and there's [a video here](#) that shows you how to make a garden and explains what Christians believe about Jesus' death and Resurrection. Perhaps you could photograph your garden and share it with your friends at school?



The Empty Tomb

Mary Magdalene wanted to anoint Jesus' body with spices. She hadn't been able to do it on Friday night or Saturday morning because it was not allowed on the Sabbath day. So she went early on Sunday morning, so she could be there at sunrise.



When she arrived in the garden, she saw that the huge stone that had been in front of the tomb had been rolled away. The tomb was empty.

Mary ran back to find Peter and John.

"They've taken Jesus away!" she cried, "I don't know where his body is."

Peter and John ran to the tomb to see if there could be any mistake. They saw the linen cloths, but Jesus was not there. The two men ran home, leaving Mary alone in the garden.

Mary was still weeping when she went to look inside the tomb again. But this time she saw two angels, sitting where Jesus' body should have been.

"Why are you crying?" asked one of the angels.

"They have taken my master away," Mary sobbed, "I don't know where they have put him!"

Mary turned as she heard someone else behind her. She thought it was the gardener.

"Who are you looking for? The man asked.

"Please, just tell me where his body is," Mary said.

The man answered with just one word. "Mary!" he said. Mary knew straight away who the man was. It was Jesus!

"Master!" she said, overjoyed to see him.

"Don't touch me," he said gently, "but go and tell the others what you have seen."

Mary ran all the way.

"I have seen Jesus!" she said, "He's no longer dead. He's alive!"

From the Barnabas Schools' Bible

Based on John 20: 1 – 18