

PRESS RELEASE

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An Easter Garden

An old tradition in the Church is the representation of the Garden Tomb where Jesus Christ was buried and where he was raised from the dead.

The building of a Garden, with rocks and greenery, is normally undertaken on Holy Thursday. The rocks are laid out to form a rock tomb and the surrounding rocky hillside. The greenery with spring flowers adorn the scene. The tomb has a small slab placed inside and the front covered with a boulder. On Good Friday three little crosses are placed above the tomb. These represent the three crosses on which Jesus and the two convicted criminals are to be crucified.

On Easter Sunday morning, the boulder covering the entrance to the tomb is rolled to the side and two small candles are lit and placed inside, along with a small linen cloth, which is put on the stone slab.

This sequence helps to focus the mind on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; in Christian theology these events give him the title "Savour of the World". The tableau is both beautiful and poignant. It gives visual impact to and acts as a remembrance of that first Easter weekend.

We have built ours around the base of the Font—the place where we baptise people—which is a very fitting symbolism. On the one hand, at their baptism people receive the blessing of God and a new spiritual self-awareness of the image of God in which they're created. On the other hand Christian theology makes a direct link between baptism and the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The disciples saw a parallel between the disappearance and reappearance of Jesus from the waters of the River Jordan at His baptism and His disappearance and reappearance from the earth—the tomb and death—at His resurrection. In our baptism we likewise are reborn in body, mind and spirit—"in water and in Spirit" as Jesus told Nicodemus—and in our holy communion with Him we are reminded of this truth. (Near to this tableau is a stained glass window of Jesus telling Nicodemus about being born again.)

Happy Easter. He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

