



# Easter

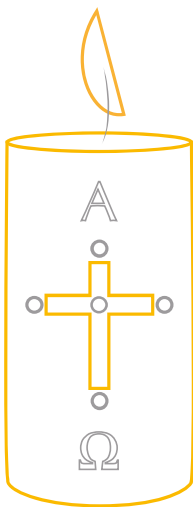
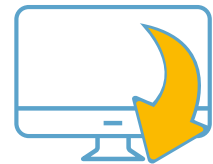
## Blessing of Homes with Easter Water

### WHAT IS THIS INITIATIVE?

At the Easter Vigil each year holy water is blessed. It is a tradition in Ireland that families bring this Easter water home with them to bless themselves, their homes, vehicles and also the graves of loved ones. Families are encouraged to pray together and bless their homes with the Easter water when they return from Mass on Holy Saturday night or Easter Sunday, or at some other time during the Easter season.

### WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AND WHERE?

- Small plastic holy water bottles are very cheap to buy in bulk. They can be filled with water ahead of time and then placed at the baptismal font (or wherever the water is blessed) during the Easter Vigil.
- A downloadable information sheet and home blessing will be available on our website.



### WHY TAKE THIS INITIATIVE?

- This initiative seeks to recover a traditional religious practice that meant a lot to Irish families. The faithful have always been encouraged to take holy water home and to use it as part of their daily lives. They have also been encouraged to regularly seek God's blessing on themselves, their families and on their homes, vehicles, religious objects and other items. In Ireland the great affection that people have for deceased loved ones has been shown by the tradition of blessing graves.





## HOW DOES THIS WORK IN A PARISH?

- 1 At the Masses on Palm Sunday announce that the initiative will be taking place the following weekend. Encourage people to bring containers to take the Easter water home with them. Also consider the option of having holy water bottles available for this purpose. These would be filled beforehand and blessed along with the other holy water during the Easter Vigil.
- 2 At the Easter Vigil ensure sufficient water is blessed for all those who wish to take some home.
- 3 Download and make copies of the information sheet to be distributed with the holy water. This explains the tradition of Easter water, and includes prayers and instructions for the family to use when blessing their home.

‘Another way of [families] growing closer is by blessing homes’

