

Make your own Paschal Candle!

The Paschal Candle is a special candle in the Church that symbolizes the risen Christ, the Light of the World. It is often decorated with a cross, the Greek letters 'Alpha' and 'Omega' (from Revelation 22.13), and the year. 'Paschal' is a term related to the Passover and to Easter. At the Easter Vigil, the Paschal candle is lit from the new fire and a song of praise called the Exsultet is said or sung after it is brought into the church as 'The Light of Christ' It is customary for the Paschal candle to burn at all services of baptism and for all funeral, as it is a sign of resurrection and life.

This year, as we cannot be together in the church for the celebration of Easter, we invite you to make your own Paschal candle at home. All you need is a candle and a kind of permanent marker or paint pen

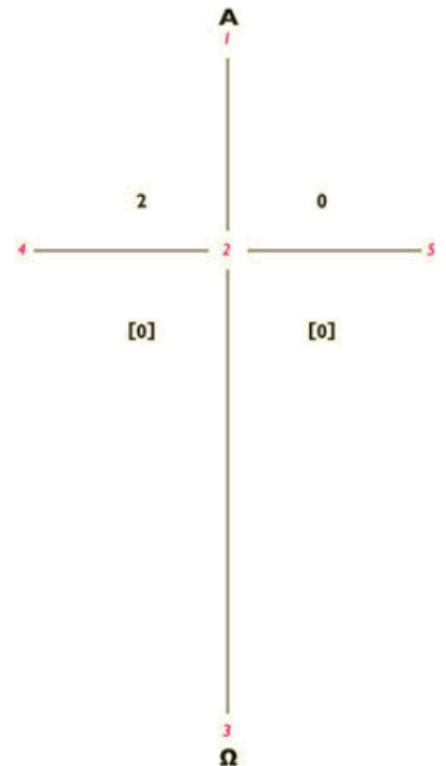
1. Draw a cross in the middle of the candle.
This represents the symbol of Christ's victory.
2. At the middle of the cross and on each end of the cross you may wish to make the dot in a different colour.

These five dots represent the five wounds of Christ. The words that are associated with these five points at the Easter Vigil are: 'By his holy and glorious wounds may Christ guard us and keep us.'

3. Above the cross write the Greek letter Alpha (Α)
Below the cross write the Greek letter Omega (Ω)

These are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet and represent Christ who is at the beginning and the end, to whom all time and all ages belong. It is drawn from Revelation 22.13 where Christ says 'I am the Alpha and the Omega...'

4. Write the year, 2020, either below the Omega or with one number in each quadrant of the cross,



5. Set your candle in a candle holder so it can be safely lit. As part of our Holy Week at Home on the Eve of Easter or on Easter Day, light the candle for the first time with the prayers in that service.
6. You can light your candle at a certain point each day of Easter, perhaps to help you focus when you pause for a moment of silence or for prayer. Use it to help remind you of the light of Christ which shines in the darkness of our world.