

## Seven Important Moments for Children to notice at the Easter Vigil



**Notice the dark.** The Easter Vigil takes place after sunset on Holy Saturday, to highlight the Church's vigil, or waiting, for the Resurrection of Jesus. The darkness of the night and of the church reminds us of the darkness of the tomb from which Jesus rose.

**Notice the fire** burning outside the doors of the church. The service begins with the blessing of the **Paschal Fire** and the lighting of the **Paschal Candle** from the fire. *Paschal* is a Latin word meaning **Easter**.

**Notice** the priest leads the procession into the church with the **Paschal Candle** which symbolises the light of Christ rising from the tomb. The smaller candles held by the people are lit from the **Paschal Candle** and shared around the church from person to person, showing how we spread the Light of Christ in the world through our service and kindness to others.

**Notice** the **Exsultet** it is an ancient hymn of praise for God's saving work in human history, culminating in the **Resurrection** of Christ sung by a deacon.

**Notice** the **Liturgy of the Word** tells the stories of the history of God's saving work among his people.

**Notice** the blessing of the **Baptismal Waters**. The waters of baptism are blessed and sprinkled on the assembly.

**Notice the Rites of Initiation.** Those who have been preparing to enter the Church (catechumens) are usually received at the **EASTER Vigil**. This includes the Sacrament of **Baptism** and **Confirmation**.