



Easter Garden

Dear Grown-up

Here is how you can make your own Easter garden, a tradition that we think is great for getting hearts and hands into the symbols and events of the Easter story. It's important to relate the events of Easter in an age-appropriate way, which differs for every child. You can encourage children to share their own ideas of Easter, and the verse from John 15:13: "No one has greater love than this, that someone would lay down his life for his friends."

Arohanui

P.S. Your child may want to show you how to make an Easter garden at home; here's how our friend Ellen, from St Stephens Tamahere, made hers:

Step 1

I assembled the elements for my Easter garden by buying a flat saucer for a few dollars from a hardware shop, some potting mix and grass seed. I wanted to buy wheat as it sprouts quickly, but couldn't find wheat for sale in Hamilton on a Saturday morning. I had pebbles, sticks to make crosses, and a small plant pot for my tomb at home. I added some Totara for a kiwi connection.

Step 2

I cut one side from my small plant pot so it would sit flat on the base of my garden, to make my tomb. I covered this with potting mix, and made a hill for my crosses. I used a craft knife to cut hollows in my twigs and a hot glue gun to stick them together, carefully supervising myself so I wasn't burnt.

I used a small glass dish for a pool (it will look cool when the grass has grown), and made a path of pebbles to my tomb. I chose a pebble the perfect shape for my tomb stone.

Step 3

Finally, I watered it carefully, and filled my little pool. I added a short hedge using sprigs of Totara.

It will need watering little and often. Because there is nowhere for the water to drain, I mustn't overdo it... just enough to keep the soil moist on top.



We hope the garden will look a little bit like this after a couple of weeks. We might even need to trim the grass

