

Easter Vigil Mass 2025

There was once a monastery at the corner of a village. Behind its stone walls lay a beautiful garden, once carefully cultivated by the early monks - a place of prayer, growth, and joy. The garden was filled with olive trees, roses, and spring lilies, and the paths had once echoed with hymns at sunrise.

But over time, things changed. Storms came. The old gardener died. Weeds grew. Fences rotted. Eventually, the garden was locked and forgotten. "Too much trouble to tend," the monks said. "Better to preserve what remains of it." Years passed.

One Easter night, a young novice entered the chapel after the Vigil liturgy. He had heard the Gospel proclaimed: "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, He is risen!" He sat in silence before the tabernacle, those words echoing in his heart. Suddenly, he felt drawn to the back of the monastery - to the old gate no one opened anymore.

He took a lamp. He found the rusty key. He entered the garden. What he saw shocked him: thorns, dry leaves, broken branches. But under the moonlight, small lilies were blooming through the wild. Life was returning quietly. As he knelt, he felt the Risen Lord whisper:

"Why are you seeking the living among the dead? I am not in locked places or forgotten fears. I am here—in the growing, in the rising, in the unexpected bloom." From that night on, the garden was opened again. Not just cleaned—but cherished. It became a place, where villagers prayed, children laughed, and the monks once more sang hymns at sunrise.

The garden had not died. It had only waited... for someone to believe in resurrection. The Resurrection is not only a past event—it is a divine power that breaks into forgotten places, locked memories, and hearts grown cold. "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" He is not in the tomb. He is risen. He is going ahead of you. So, the Easter Vigil is a sacred journey - from Creation to Re-creation, from bondage to freedom, from death to life. Each reading unveils a part of God's saving plan, that is fulfilled in the Resurrection of Jesus.