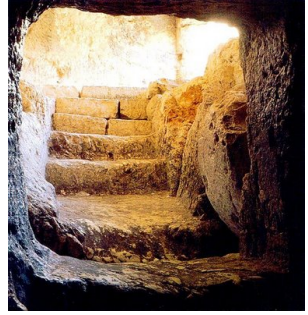


	The empty tomb	
Presence of God	Considering how God looks at me.	
History John 20, 1 – 7	<p>¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”</p> <p>³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen.</p>	
Petition	<i>Lord, may I know you more clearly, love you more deeply and follow you more nearly in this time of triumph and jubilation!</i>	

Contemplation	<p>No one escapes death <i>The grave is where everybody will end up. What is a grave/tomb like? What images/feelings come to your mind when you think of a tomb? Remember Jesus in the tomb; his body, marked up with the scars of mankind. Every pain, sin, limitation, cruelty, is embedded in the shattered body of the Son of God, who wanted to carry all this evil upon himself to be with us. If you could imagine the horrors locked away in this tomb, it would be really terrible!</i></p>	<p>Eternal life is a gift from God. As men belong to the material world, their lives have an end, because in the physical world everything comes to an end. So, our hope of eternal life is the gift of God to men.</p> <p>Suffering is part of life. God renews everything and radically changes the situation of man, doomed to frustration and suffering. The first saints of the Church put forward the idea of the deification of man by the grace of God.</p> <p>Resuscitated Jesus can be felt through signs; in St. Ignatius’ words “consolation”. The challenge is to discover the glorified and living God in the things He gifted us with every day: life, love, his blessing and the opportunity to grow.</p>
	<p>The empty tomb <i>But on Sunday morning, the tomb was open and empty, which means that all the evil, the frustration and the pain, locked inside that tomb went away. And this means that all evil has an end and it is not permanent. Imagine the things that make you suffer, that scare you, etc. and look at that empty tomb and think that one day, they will come to an end.</i></p>	
	<p>The stone had been removed, the strips of linen and the cloth <i>We will go over the different signs mentioned here. What feelings do they arouse in you? (Children are invited to close their eyes and the signs are read one by one leaving some time for silent contemplation in between)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Imagine the huge stone that closed the tomb, to confine the Son of God...it can no longer confine anything. It is fallen, broken and useless.</i> • <i>Imagine the strips of linen and the cloth lying on the floor: they can no longer wrap anything. They were used to cover decomposing corpses and now there is no dead body to cover because Jesus’ body has been glorified by God.</i> • <i>Imagine the two angels: the messengers that tell us that Jesus is ALIVE. Think about all the messages that God sends you every day to tell you that He is alive, that He loves you, that He wants to give you important gifts every day....</i> 	

Colloquy

*Let's sit on the carpet, on the promised land, near Jesus, to hear him in the silence of our hearts.
Imagine Jesus resuscitated and alive here with you. Feel him inside you and thank him for his promise: evil and all the things that make you suffer will come to an end.*

