

LENTEN GARDEN

Lent for children will come alive with this activity. It's fun to prepare and plant seeds and carefully tend the seedlings. Soon delicate blades of grass will be stretching toward the light. With good care, the grass will grow thick and strong and lush, symbolising the coming of Easter and the certainty of spring.

You will need:

- A tray, shallow dish
- Rocks or pebbles to set the scene
- Small Terracotta pot for optional tomb
- Grass seeds
- Water
- Crosses, optional
- Medium sized rock for the stone that rolls away

Instructions:

- 1.** Start with a pretty bowl or tray about three inches high. For drainage, first lay down an even layer of small rocks – aquarium rocks are perfect.
To add Tomb, lay small pot on side and cover with layer of soil as well.
- 2.** Sprinkle Grass seeds over the soil, then add another layer of soil. If the soil is dry and airy, use a large amount because it'll pack down once wet. For visual interest, especially before germination, arrange a few rocks or perhaps pieces of nature. Be creative!
- 3.** Water the seeds, but not too much, a spray mister may prevent over-watering. Now place the tray in a sunny position, somewhere that's easy for all to see. Day 6... start looking for itsy signs of grass!
- 4.** Take one strip of paper, loop it to make a circle and staple the ends to secure. Add other links to the paper chain by inserting each strip into link before it, loop to make a circle and staple the end to secure.
- 5.** By day 15... You'll need to "mow" every week or when the grass gets unruly, "mow" it with scissors. From now until Easter. The children will love it.

