

Easter



Why do we celebrate Easter?

- Easter is a special festival Christians celebrate to remember Jesus coming back to life again.
- For Christians it symbolises good over evil and Jesus defeated the devil by coming back to life.
- The week leading up to Easter is called **Holy week** it tells the story of Jesus before Easter Sunday.
- Easter is not celebrated on the same date each year like Christmas it is usually in March or April.
- People give and receive Easter eggs as presents they symbolise new life.
- People celebrate Easter differently in other countries because of traditions and culture.



Palm Sunday is the first day of Holy Week and celebrates Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Crowds of people came out of the city to greet him, throwing down palm branches on the road. In most countries, this day is celebrated with religious processions with crosses made from palm leaves or other plants to remind them of how Jesus was greeted in Jerusalem and of what came after.

Maundy Thursday is when Christians remember that Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples, breaking bread and drinking wine, which is now known as the Last Supper. The word 'Maundy' comes from the mandate (command) given by Jesus at the Last Supper, that we should love one another. Jesus demonstrated this by washing the feet of the disciples - something a servant would normally do. Many Christians remember this by sharing bread and wine together in a service called Holy Communion, Eucharist or Mass. It is a reminder that Jesus sacrificed his life for mankind. Roman Catholic Church services include a ceremony in which the priest washes the feet of 12 people to commemorate Jesus' washing the feet of his disciples.

Good Friday is the Friday before Easter Sunday. It commemorates the execution of Jesus by crucifixion. Good Friday is a day of mourning in church. During special Good Friday services Christians remember Jesus' suffering and death on the cross, and what this means for their faith. In some countries, there are special Good Friday processions, or re-enactments of the Crucifixion.

Easter Sunday marks Jesus' resurrection. After Jesus was crucified on the Friday (now known as Good Friday), his body was taken down from the cross, and buried in a cave tomb. On the Sunday, Mary Magdalene, followed later by some of Jesus' disciples visited the tomb and found that the stone had been moved, and that Jesus' body had gone. Jesus showed himself to Mary and the disciples that day, and for forty days afterwards by many people. Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the most important Christian festival and the one celebrated with the greatest joy.

Easter

Disciple-a follower of Jesus talked about in the Bible.

Last supper-a special meal Jesus shared with his disciples.

Gethsemane-a garden in the Easter story where Jesus went to pray.

Betrayed-when someone lets you down or does something against you.

Tomb-it is like a cave where people were buried and then the entrance covered with a large stone.

Hot cross buns-bread buns with currents in and a sugar glaze cross on the top, traditionally eaten on Good Friday.

Good Friday-the day Christian's remember Jesus dying on the cross.

Cross-a symbol of the Christian faith.

New Life- Easter is celebrated in spring when new life begins like baby lambs or chicks being born. This represents Jesus coming back to life in the Easter story.

Key Vocabulary

Jesus story disciples last supper Lent

garden Gethsemane cross betrayed

alive new life tomb soldiers died

church celebrate Sunday Easter eggs

hot cross buns rabbits chicks born

