

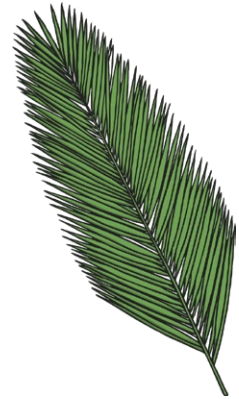
# Easter

Easter is an important Christian festival, when Christians remember the death and **resurrection** of Jesus, whom Christians believe to be the Son of God.

Most Christians refer to the week before Easter as Holy Week. During this week, Christians remember the last week of Jesus's life. Holy Week contains many special days for Christians, beginning with Palm Sunday.

## Palm Sunday

The Bible says that, on this day, Jesus and his **disciples** walked to Jerusalem for a Passover meal. Jesus sent two of his disciples to find a donkey. They brought the donkey to Jesus and laid cloaks on its back so that Jesus could ride on it. Lots of people had heard that Jesus was about to arrive so a large crowd had gathered to welcome him. As Jesus rode the donkey into Jerusalem, the crowd took palm leaves from the trees, laying them on the ground and waving them in the air in celebration.



## Maundy Thursday

On this day, Jesus and his disciples gathered together to eat their last meal together, known as The Last Supper. As his friends gathered at the house, Jesus surprised them by washing their feet and he told them that they should always love one another.

Jesus then passed bread and wine around the table. He explained that, after his death, his friends should share bread and wine to remember him by. It was later in the evening on Maundy Thursday when Jesus was betrayed by one of his disciples, named Judas.



## Good Friday

Christians believe that Jesus died on Good Friday. Jesus was made to carry a heavy, wooden cross through the city to the place where he would be crucified. The Roman guards nailed Jesus to the cross and placed a crown made of thorns on his head. Some Christians believe that the sky turned black as Jesus suffered.



## Holy Saturday

According to the Bible, it was on Holy Saturday that Jesus's body was placed in a tomb. A heavy stone was rolled in front of the tomb's entrance and it was guarded by a Roman soldier.



## Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday is a happy day for Christians because it is the day that they believe that Jesus was resurrected. According to the Bible, the tomb of Jesus was found empty when his friends and family went to remove his body. That same day, and for forty days afterwards, Jesus's disciples saw him and realised that God had raised him from the dead. The resurrection of Jesus is important to Christians because it gives the promise of eternal life in heaven.

To celebrate Jesus's resurrection, special church services are held on this day. Gifts, including Easter eggs, are given and the church is filled with flowers which symbolise new life.



### The Date of Easter

The exact date that Easter Sunday is celebrated on changes every year.

Easter has been celebrated on:

5<sup>th</sup> April 2015  
27<sup>th</sup> March 2016  
16<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Easter will be celebrated on:

1<sup>st</sup> April 2018  
21<sup>st</sup> April 2019  
12<sup>th</sup> April 2020



### Glossary

**Disciples** – Followers of Jesus during his lifetime.

**Resurrection** – Rising from the dead.

# Questions

1. 'Christians remember the death and resurrection of Jesus...' What does the word **resurrection** mean? Tick one.

- importance amongst people
- rising from the dead
- birth in a manger
- riding a donkey

2. Find and copy one word which means **to have been disloyal to someone**.

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3. Give a reasonable prediction of the date that Easter Sunday will fall on in 2021.

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4. Number the days of Holy Week to show the order they happen in. The first one has been done for you.

- Good Friday
- 1 Palm Sunday
- Easter Sunday
- Maundy Thursday
- Holy Saturday

5. Which disciple betrayed Jesus on Maundy Thursday?

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6. Why do you think the disciples were shocked when Jesus washed their feet?

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7. Why do you think that Jesus's arrival had attracted such big crowds on Palm Sunday?

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8. Explain why the church is filled with flowers on Easter Sunday.

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# Answers

1. 'Christians remember the death and resurrection of Jesus...' What does the word **resurrection** mean? Tick one.

- importance amongst people
- rising from the dead
- birth in a manger
- riding a donkey

2. Find and copy one word which means **to have been disloyal to someone.**

**betrayed**

3. Give a reasonable prediction of the date that Easter Sunday will fall on in 2021.

**Accept any prediction which gives a date ranging between 20th March and 18th April.**

4. Number the days of Holy Week to show the order they happen in. The first one has been done for you.

- 3 Good Friday
- 1 Palm Sunday
- 5 Easter Sunday
- 2 Maundy Thursday
- 4 Holy Saturday

5. Which disciple betrayed Jesus on Maundy Thursday?

**Judas betrayed Jesus on Maundy Thursday.**

6. Why do you think the disciples were shocked when Jesus washed their feet?

**Accept any suitable response, such as: The disciples were shocked when Jesus washed their feet because they did not expect someone so important to do such a job.**

7. Why do you think that Jesus's arrival had attracted such big crowds on Palm Sunday?

**Accept any suitable answer, such as: Many people had heard about Jesus and/or believed him to be the Son of God, so they wanted to see Jesus for themselves.**

8. Explain why the church is filled with flowers on Easter Sunday.

**The church is filled with fresh flowers on Easter Sunday to represent new life as Jesus rose from the dead to new life on Easter Sunday.**

# Easter

Easter is an important Christian festival during which Christians remember the death and resurrection of Jesus, whom they believe to be the Son of God. The exact date on which Easter falls is different each year. However, it is always celebrated after the spring equinox.

Most Christians refer to the week before Easter as Holy Week. During this week, Christians remember the last week of Jesus's life. Holy week contains many special days for Christians, beginning with Palm Sunday.

## Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday, also sometimes known as Passion Sunday, is always celebrated on the Sunday before Easter Sunday. The Bible says that, on this day, Jesus and his disciples walked to Jerusalem for a Passover meal. Many people had heard that Jesus was about to arrive so a large crowd had gathered to welcome him. As Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem, the crowd took off their cloaks and laid them in the road for the donkey to walk over. They also took palm leaves from the trees. They laid them on the ground and waved them in the air shouting, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the King of Israel!"

In remembrance of this, crosses made from palm leaves are given out at the special church services held on Palm Sunday each year.

## Maundy Thursday

The Bible says that, on Maundy Thursday, Jesus and his disciples gathered together to eat their final meal, known as The Last Supper. As his friends gathered at the house, Jesus surprised them by washing their feet. This was unusual as Jesus was believed to be the son of God and washing feet was a task normally done by servants, yet, Jesus used this opportunity to teach his friends that they should always love one another and show kindness in humble ways.

Jesus passed bread and wine around the table. He explained that, after his death, his friends should share bread and wine to remember him by. It was later that evening when Jesus was betrayed by one of his disciples, named Judas.

In remembrance of this, bread and wine are shared at church services all year round. Up until the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the king or queen of England would wash the feet of poor people in London, just as Jesus had washed the feet of his friends on that fateful night.

## Good Friday

On Good Friday, Roman guards nailed Jesus to the cross, which he had been forced to carry to a hill in the city of Golgotha, meaning 'place of the skull'. They placed a crown made of thorns on his head and left him to die. Some Christians believe that, as Jesus suffered, the sky turned black.

Christians across the world remember this day in many different ways. Some people attend special church services which retell the story of what happened to Jesus on this day. All of the flowers in churches around the world are taken down on this day.

## Holy Saturday

According to the Bible, it was on Holy Saturday that Jesus's body was placed in a tomb. A heavy stone was rolled in front of the tomb's entrance and it was guarded by a Roman soldier.

To remember this, Christians around the world attend church services and an Easter candle (sometimes known as a Paschal candle) is lit. They use this time to reflect and await Jesus's resurrection.

## Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday is a joyous time for Christians because it is the day that they believe that Jesus was resurrected. According to the Bible, the tomb of Jesus was found empty when his friends and family went to remove his body. That same day, and for forty days afterwards, Jesus's disciples saw him and realised that God had raised him from the dead. The resurrection of Jesus is important to Christians because it gives the promise of eternal life in heaven.

To celebrate Jesus's resurrection, special church services are held on this day. Gifts, including Easter eggs, are given and the church is filled with flowers which symbolise new life.

### Glossary

**Disciples** – Followers of Jesus during his lifetime.

**Resurrection** – Rising from the dead.



### The Date of Easter

The exact date that Easter Sunday is celebrated on changes every year.

Easter has been celebrated on: 5<sup>th</sup> April 2015,  
27<sup>th</sup> March 2016, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2017  
Easter will be celebrated on: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018,  
21<sup>st</sup> April 2019, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020

# Questions

1. Which two of these might a Christian do on Good Friday? Tick one.

- attend a church service
- display new flowers in church
- give each other gifts
- go on a long walk

2. Why did Jesus and his friends travel to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? Tick one.

- to spread the word of God
- to eat a Passover meal
- to take palm branches from the trees
- to find a donkey to ride

3. What is the meaning of the name **Golgotha**?

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4. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

'The \_\_\_\_\_ on which Easter falls is \_\_\_\_\_. However, it is always celebrated \_\_\_\_\_'.

5. Match the question to the correct answer.

On which day of Holy Week did Jesus's friends find his empty tomb?

Maundy Thursday

On which day of Holy Week did The Last Supper occur?

Good Friday

On which day of Holy Week did Jesus carry a cross through the city?

Easter Sunday

6. Using evidence from the text, explain why Jesus washing his friends' feet was unusual.

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7. Explain the significance of the presence of fresh flowers on Easter Sunday.

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8. Which day of Holy Week do you think is the most important and why?

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9. How is Easter similar to another festival you know?

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# Answers

1. Which two of these might a Christian do on Good Friday? Tick one.

- attend a church service
- display new flowers in church
- give each other gifts
- go on a long walk

2. Why did Jesus and his friends travel to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? Tick one.

- to spread the word of God
- to eat a Passover meal
- to take palm branches from the trees
- to find a donkey to ride

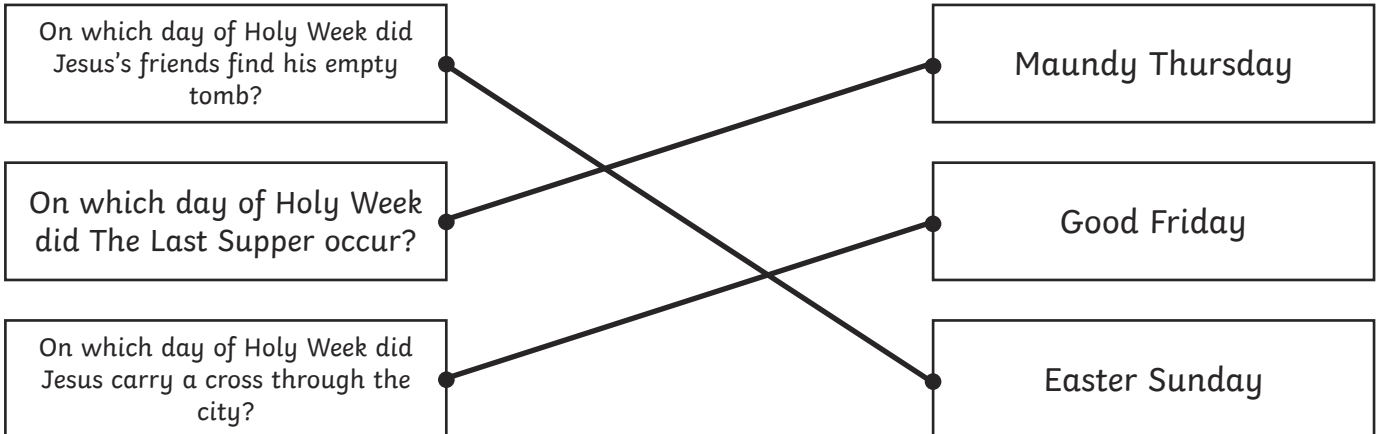
3. What is the meaning of the name **Golgotha**?

**Accept the answer 'Place of the Skull' only.**

4. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

'The **exact date** on which Easter falls is **different each year**. However, it is always celebrated **after the spring equinox**'.

5. Match the question to the correct answer.



6. Using evidence from the text, explain why Jesus washing his friends' feet was unusual.

**Accept any suitable answer, such as: This was unusual as it was a task normally done by servants yet Jesus was believed to be the son of God. You may think that Jesus's disciples would be cleaning his feet but instead the opposite was true.**

7. Explain the significance of the presence of fresh flowers on Easter Sunday.

**The presence of fresh flowers in churches on Easter Sunday is significant because they represent new life and symbolise the new life given to Jesus when he rose from the dead on Easter Sunday.**

8. Which day of Holy Week do you think is the most important and why?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Easter Sunday is the most important day because Jesus rose from the dead and that gives Christians the promise of eternal life in heaven.**

9. How is Easter similar to another festival you know?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Easter is similar to Christmas because they are both Christian festivals which mark important events in the life of Jesus.**

# Easter

Easter is a significant festival during the Christian calendar, during which followers around the world remember the death and resurrection of Jesus – who they believe to be the son of God. The exact date on which Easter Sunday falls changes each year, as it is always celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon which comes after the spring equinox.



Most Christians worldwide refer to the week before Easter, which begins with Palm Sunday, as Holy Week. During this week, more so than ever, Christians reflect upon the last week of Jesus's life.

## Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday, also occasionally referred to as Passion Sunday, is always celebrated exactly one week before Easter Sunday. According to the Bible, Jesus, accompanied by his disciples, travelled to Jerusalem for a Passover meal on this day. As many people had become aware of Jesus's impending arrival, a sizeable crowd had congregated to welcome him. As Jesus rode into Jerusalem, the crowd removed their cloaks and placed them in the road to line the donkey's path. They also removed palm leaves from the trees, laying them on the ground and waving them in the air shouting, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the King of Israel!"

In remembrance of this, crosses made from palm leaves are given out at the special church services held annually on Palm Sunday.

## Maundy Thursday

On Maundy Thursday, Jesus and his disciples are believed to have gathered together to eat their final meal, The Last Supper. Unusually, as his friends gathered at the house, Jesus washed their feet – a task normally done by servants. Jesus did this as an opportunity to teach his friends that they should show their love for one another in meek and humble ways.

Jesus then shared bread and wine around the table, explaining that, after his death, his friends should do the same as a means of remembering him. This is the origin of the bread and wine used within the Eucharist during church services around the world today.

In remembrance of Jesus's acts of humility and kindness at The Last Supper, the king or queen of England would wash the feet of the poor in London, in a tradition which continued up until the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### Good Friday

The Bible records that, on Good Friday, Roman guards nailed Jesus to the cross, which he had been forced to carry to a hill in the city of Golgotha (the 'place of the skull'). Humiliatingly, the guards placed a crown made of thorns on Jesus's head and left him to die. Some Christians believe that, as Jesus suffered, the sky turned black to mirror his anguish.

Christians across the world mark the anniversary of this day in many different ways. Some choose to fast, others attend dedicated church services and many remove floral decorations from their place of worship in commemoration of Jesus's sacrifice.

### Holy Saturday

Christians believe that it was on Holy Saturday that Jesus's body was placed in a tomb. The entrance was covered by a large, heavy stone and guarded by a team of Roman soldiers, who regularly changed shifts to ensure that they were attentive, alert and awake. No one would have been able to approach, let alone enter, the tomb in which Jesus laid at rest.

On Holy Saturday, Christians around the world light an Easter candle (sometimes known as a Paschal candle) and spend the day in reflection and prayer.

### Easter Sunday

Christians joyously celebrate Easter Sunday in the belief that it marks the day on which Jesus was resurrected. According to the Bible, when arriving at Jesus's tomb to cleanse and anoint his body, the Myrrhbearers found that the stone guarding the entrance of the tomb had been rolled away. Peering inside, they found that Jesus's body had vanished.

That same day, and for forty days afterwards, Jesus's disciples believed that they saw Jesus on no fewer than ten occasions and realised that God had raised him from the dead. The resurrection of Jesus is crucial to Christians because it confirms the promise of eternal life in heaven.

In celebration of Jesus's resurrection, church services are invariably held on this day. Easter cards and small gifts, such as Easter eggs and chocolate rabbits, are given and the church is filled with flowers to symbolise new life.

# Questions

1. ‘... church services are invariably held on this day.’

What does the word **invariably** mean? Tick one.

- never
- usually
- sometimes
- always

2. What is sometimes lit on Holy Saturday? Tick one.

- The Sacred Fire
- The Paschal Candle
- The Easter Lamp
- The Holy Lantern

3. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

‘The exact day on which \_\_\_\_\_ falls changes \_\_\_\_\_, as it is always celebrated on the \_\_\_\_\_ after the \_\_\_\_\_ which comes after the \_\_\_\_\_.’

4. What is Palm Sunday sometimes referred to as?

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5. Find and copy one word which means **to have a modest view of one’s own importance**.

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6. What is the significance of the Eucharist in church services today?

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7. What reaction may the Myrrhbearers have had when they found Jesus’s body was gone?

Explain your answer.

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8. Explain how new life is symbolised by Christians on Easter Sunday.

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9. Why is the presence of the heavy stone and the Roman guard outside of Jesus's tomb important to the Easter story?

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10. Why is the cross an important symbol to Christians?

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# Answers

1. ‘... church services are invariably held on this day.’

What does the word **invariably** mean? Tick one.

- never
- usually
- sometimes
- always

2. What is sometimes lit on Holy Saturday? Tick one.

- The Sacred Fire
- The Paschal Candle
- The Easter Lamp
- The Holy Lantern

3. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

‘The exact day on which **Easter** falls changes **each year**, as it is always celebrated on the **first sunday** after the **first full moon** which comes after the **spring equinox**.’

4. What is Palm Sunday sometimes referred to as?

**Palm Sunday is sometimes referred to as Passion Sunday.**

5. Find and copy one word which means **to have a modest view of one’s own importance**.

**humility**

6. What is the significance of the Eucharist in church services today?

**The Eucharist is given using bread and wine, which is what Jesus told his disciples to use in remembrance of him. It is significant because it reminds Christians of The Last Supper and of the sacrifice that Jesus made.**

7. What reaction may the Myrrhbearers have had when they found Jesus’s body was gone?

Explain your answer.

**Accept any suitable answer, such as: They have had been shocked because Jesus’s body was missing; They may have cried because they thought Jesus’s body had been stolen; They may have asked the Roman guards where Jesus’s body had gone because it was no longer in the tomb.**



8. Explain how new life is symbolised by Christians on Easter Sunday.

**New life is symbolised by Christians on Easter Sunday with fresh flowers or Easter eggs as a representation of new life.**

9. Why is the presence of the heavy stone and the Roman guard outside of Jesus's tomb important to the Easter story?

**Accept any suitable answer, such as: The heavy stone and the Roman guard would have made it impossible for anyone to steal Jesus's body and, therefore, the fact the body was missing proves that Jesus was risen from the dead by God and confirms that what Jesus taught about eternal life in heaven was true.**

10. Why is the cross an important symbol to Christians?

**Accept any answer which explains that the cross is an important Christian symbol because Christians believe that Jesus died on the cross. The cross reminds Christians of Jesus's sacrifice and the proof his death provided about eternal life in heaven.**