

Easter

What Is Easter?

Easter is an important Christian festival. It is when Christians remember that Jesus died on the cross and came back to life three days later. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday.

What Happened on Palm Sunday?

The Bible tells us that Jesus and his followers went to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Lots of people had heard that Jesus was coming so a big crowd had gathered to see him. They waved palm leaves in the air and laid them on the ground for Jesus to walk on.



What Happened on Maundy Thursday?

On Maundy Thursday, Jesus and his followers had their last meal together, known as The Last Supper. Jesus washed his friends' feet and told them that they should always love one another. Jesus then gave each person some bread and wine, explaining that his friends should share bread and wine after his death to remember him.

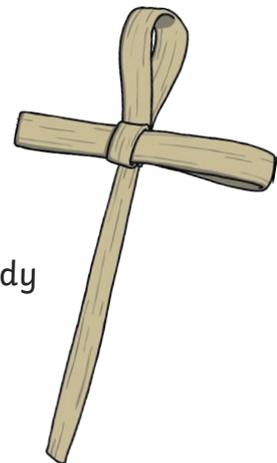


What Happened on Good Friday?

It was on Good Friday that Christians believe that Jesus died. Jesus was made to carry a heavy wooden cross through the city. The Roman guards nailed Jesus to the cross and placed a crown made of thorns on his head.

What Happened on Holy Saturday?

Christians believe that Jesus' body was placed in a tomb on Holy Saturday. A heavy stone was rolled in front of the entrance and it was guarded by a Roman soldier so that nobody could take his body.



What Happened on Easter Sunday?

Easter Sunday is a happy day for Christians because it is the day that they believe Jesus rose from the dead. The Bible says that Jesus' friends and family went to visit the tomb. When they got there, the body had gone. On that day, and for 40 days afterwards, Jesus' friends saw him in lots of different places. They realised that God had raised him from the dead.

How Do Christians Celebrate Easter Sunday?

To celebrate Jesus coming back to life, lots of Christians go to special church services on Easter Sunday.

Did You Know...?

The exact date of Easter Sunday changes every year.

Easter has been celebrated on:

5th April 2015

27th March 2016

16th April 2017

1st April 2018

21st April 2019

Easter will be celebrated on:

12th April 2020

4th April 2021

17th April 2022



Questions

1. Which date was Easter Sunday celebrated on in 2015? Tick one.

- 27th March
- 5th April
- 16th April
- 21st April

2. On which day did Jesus and his followers go to Jerusalem? Tick one.

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

3. What was placed on Jesus' head on Good Friday? Tick one.

- a golden crown
- a bandage
- a floral wreath
- a crown of thorns

4. Which two things did Jesus give to his friends on Maundy Thursday? Tick two.

- bread
- meat
- fish
- wine

5. Fill in the missing words in this sentence:

Jesus _____ and told them that they should always _____.

6. What did the crowd of people wave in the air on Palm Sunday?

7. Why is Easter Sunday a happy day for Christians?

Answers

1. Which date was Easter Sunday celebrated on in 2015? Tick one.

- 27th March
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- bread**
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5. Fill in the missing words in this sentence:

Jesus **washed his friends' feet** and told them that they should always **love one another**.

6. What did the crowd of people wave in the air on Palm Sunday?

On Palm Sunday, people waved palm leaves in the air.

7. Why is Easter Sunday a happy day for Christians?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Easter Sunday is a happy day for Christians because it remembers the day that Jesus rose from the dead.

Easter

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

Most Christians refer to the week before Easter Sunday as Holy Week. During this week, Christians remember the last week of Jesus' 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** entered Jerusalem. Lots of people had heard that Jesus was about to arrive so a large crowd had gathered to welcome him. As Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, the crowd took palm leaves from the trees, laying them on the ground for him to walk on and waving them in the air in celebration.



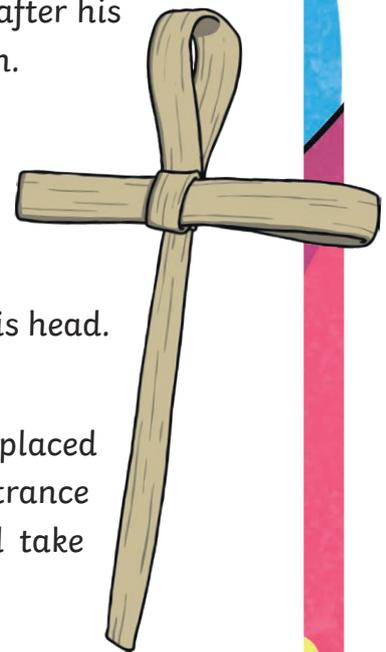
Maundy Thursday

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 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.



Good Friday

It was on Good Friday that Christians believe that Jesus died. 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.



Holy Saturday

According to the Bible, it was on this day that Jesus' 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 so that nobody could take his body.

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday is a happy day for Christians because it is the day that they believe Jesus rose from the dead. The Bible says that the tomb of Jesus was found empty when his friends and family went to visit it. That same day, and for 40 days afterwards, Jesus' disciples saw him and realised that God had raised him from the dead.



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

Glossary

Disciples – Followers of Jesus during his lifetime.

Resurrection – Rising from the dead.

Questions

1. What was Jesus made to carry on Good Friday? Tick one.

- a crown of thorns
- a heavy stone
- a wooden cross
- some bread and wine

2. Draw a line to match the question to the correct answer.

Who gathered to greet Jesus and his disciples on Palm Sunday?

Roman guards

Who nailed Jesus to the cross on Good Friday?

Jesus' friends and family

Who discovered that Jesus' tomb was empty?

a large crowd

3. In which month is Easter Sunday most commonly celebrated? Tick one.

- January
- February
- March
- April

4. Why was Jesus' tomb guarded by a Roman soldier? Tick one.

- so that Jesus did not escape
- so that nobody took Jesus' body
- to make sure that it stayed dark inside
- to prevent Jesus' family from visiting

5. What do most Christians call the week before Easter Sunday?

6. Why did a large crowd gather on Palm Sunday?

7. How might Jesus' family and friends have felt on Easter Sunday? Explain your answer.

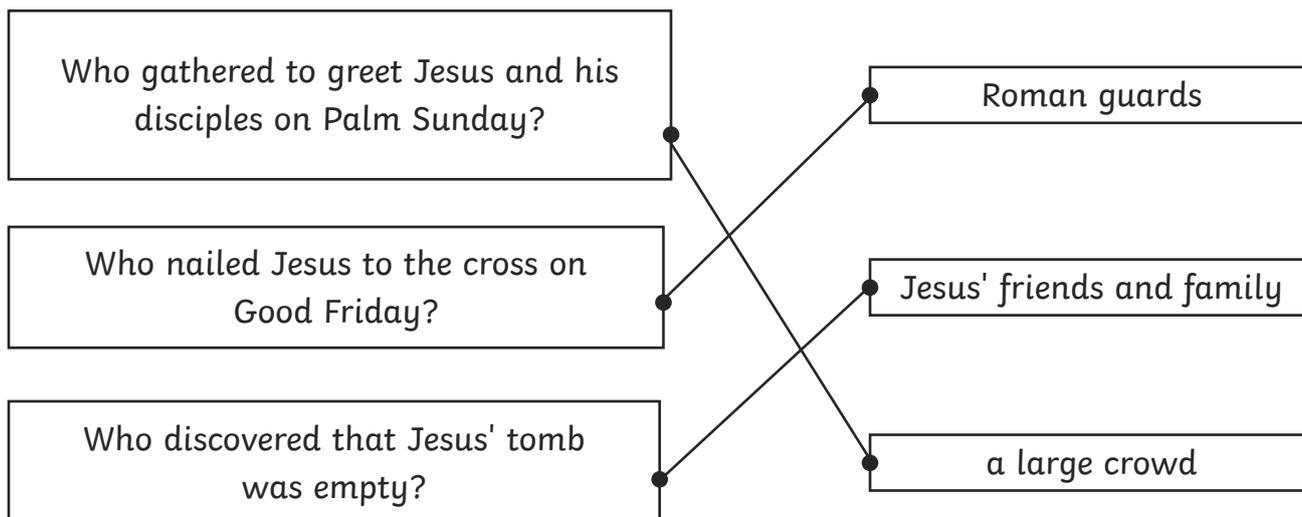
8. Explain why churches are filled with fresh flowers on Easter Sunday.

Answers

1. What was Jesus made to carry on Good Friday? Tick one.

- a crown of thorns
- a heavy stone
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3. In which month is Easter Sunday most commonly celebrated? Tick one.

- January
- February
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- so that Jesus did not escape
- so that nobody took Jesus' body**
- to make sure that it stayed dark inside
- to prevent Jesus' family from visiting

5. What do most Christians call the week before Easter Sunday?

Most Christians call the week before Easter Sunday Holy Week.

6. Why did a large crowd gather on Palm Sunday?

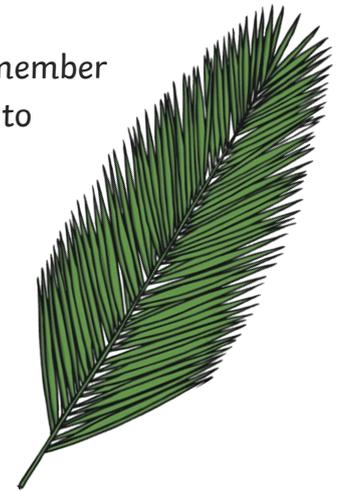
A large crowd gathered on Palm Sunday to welcome Jesus to Jerusalem.

7. How might Jesus' family and friends have felt on Easter Sunday? Explain your answer.
Accept any suitable answer, such as: Jesus' family and friends may have felt shocked on Easter Sunday because Jesus' body was gone; They may have been happy because they knew that Jesus had risen from the dead; They may have been surprised because they saw Jesus appear to them.
8. Explain why churches are filled with fresh flowers on Easter Sunday.
Churches are filled with fresh flowers on Easter Sunday because they represent new life and Jesus rose from the dead into new life on this day.

Easter

Easter is an important Christian festival, when Christians remember the death and **resurrection** of Jesus, who 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' life. Holy Week contains many special days for Christians, beginning with Palm Sunday.



Palm Sunday

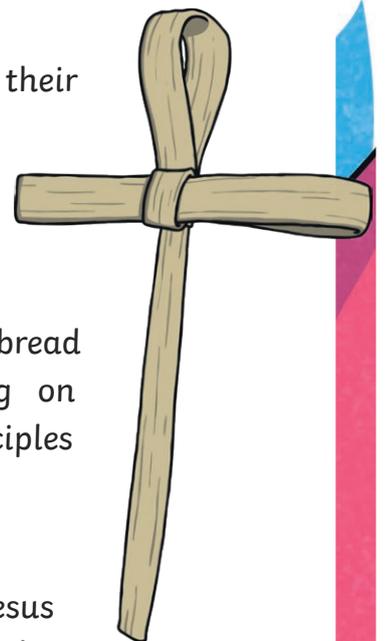
The Bible says that, on this day, Jesus and his **disciples** walked to Jerusalem for a Passover meal. Jesus sent two of his disciples to find a donkey. They brought the donkey to Jesus and draped cloaks on its back so that Jesus could ride on it. Lots of people had heard that Jesus was about to arrive, 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 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. It was later in the evening on Maundy Thursday when Jesus was betrayed by one his disciples named Judas.



Good Friday

It was on Good Friday that Christians believe that Jesus died. 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 as Jesus suffered, the sky turned black.

Holy Saturday

According to the Bible, the tomb of Jesus was found empty when his friends and family visited it. A heavy stone was rolled in front of the 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 visited it. That same day, and for 40 days afterwards, Jesus' 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' 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.

Questions

1. 'To celebrate Jesus' resurrection, special church services are held...' What does the word **resurrection** mean? Tick one.

- importance to others
- a long time ago
- returning to life
- being a special person

2. Match each question to the correct answer.

When did Jesus carry a heavy, wooden cross through the city?

Good Friday

On which day did The Last Supper occur?

Easter Sunday

On which day do Christians believe that Jesus rose from the dead?

Maundy Thursday

3. Name two things that Jesus did on Maundy Thursday.

4. What do some Christians believe happened to the sky while Jesus suffered?

5. Find and copy a word which tells you that the stone at the opening of Jesus' tomb weighed a lot.

6. Why is the resurrection of Jesus important to Christians?

7. Why might Jesus' disciples have been surprised by Jesus washing their feet on Maundy Thursday?

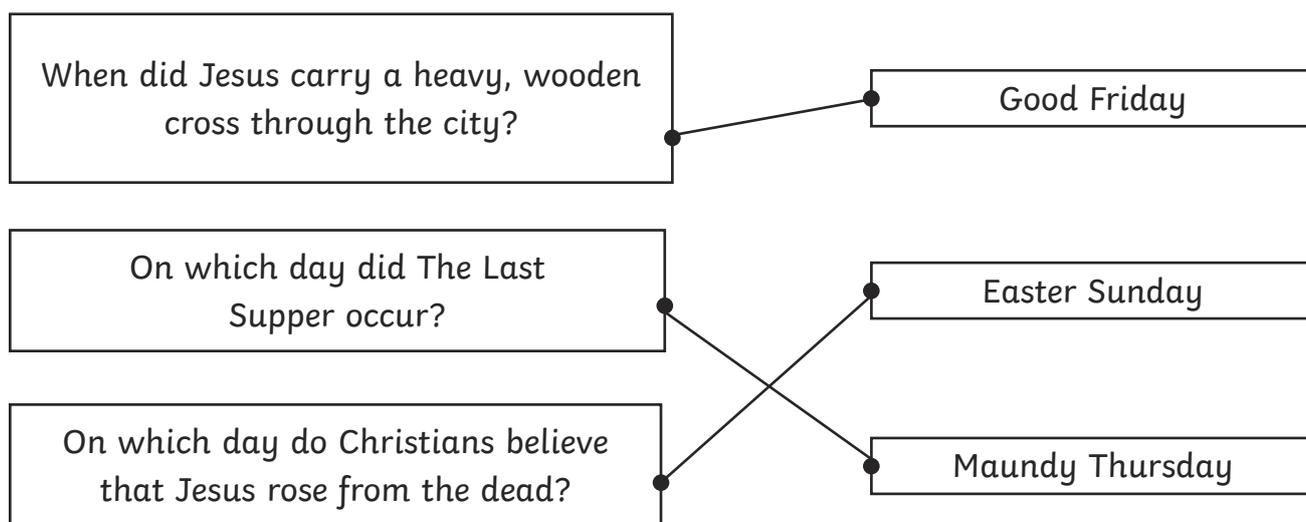
8. 'The most important day of Holy Week is Good Friday as it is the day that Jesus died.' Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. 'To celebrate Jesus' resurrection, special church services are held...' What does the word resurrection mean? Tick one.

- importance to others
- a long time ago
- returning to life**
- being a special person

2. Match each question to the correct answer.



3. Name two things that Jesus did on Maundy Thursday.

Accept any two of the following: Jesus gathered at a house with his disciples; He ate a meal with the disciples; He washed his friends' feet; He told his friends that they should love one another; He passed bread and wine around the table; He explained that his friends should share bread and wine to remember him by.

4. What do some Christians believe happened to the sky while Jesus suffered?

Some Christians believed that the sky turned black while Jesus suffered.

5. Find and copy a word which tells you that the stone at the opening of Jesus' tomb weighed a lot.

heavy

6. Why is the resurrection of Jesus important to Christians?

Jesus' resurrection gives the promise of eternal life in heaven to Christians.

7. Why might Jesus' disciples have been surprised by Jesus washing their feet on Maundy Thursday?

Jesus' disciples may have been surprised by Jesus washing their feet on Maundy Thursday because they thought he was very important / the Son of God and did not expect him to do a dirty job like washing their feet.

8. 'The most important day of Holy Week is Good Friday as it is the day that Jesus died.' Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

Pupils own responses, such as: Yes I agree with this statement because without Jesus' death he would never have returned to life and proven that the promise of eternal life is true.