

Why is Easter special for Christians?

Our Learning

This term we will be learning about new life in the Spring. We will use bible stories to learn about Holy week and link new life to the resurrection of Jesus. We will look at symbols that represent events at Easter.

Key Vocabulary

Easter	The oldest and most important Christian festival.
Christians	People who follow the religion of Christianity.
Jesus	The son of God.
resurrection	When Jesus came back to life.



Holy Week

Holy Week is the week leading up to Easter. The Easter story is very important to Christians as it reminds them of Jesus' death and celebrates his resurrection. There are four important days during Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.



Key Questions (Specific learning / focus for unit)

- What symbols are used during Holy week?
- What do Christians believe happened to Jesus?
- What do Christians do at Easter?



Many Christians go to church at Easter. Parts of the Bible are read and special hymns are sung. Hot cross buns are eaten. The cross reminds people that Jesus died on the cross. Many Christians send Easter cards. Simnel cake is eaten. It is a fruit cake with eleven marzipan balls on the top. These represent all of the disciples except Judas. Eggs are painted and chocolate eggs are given. The eggs symbolise new life and are the same shape as the rock that was rolled in front of Jesus' tomb.

Easter Traditions

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy Week. Christians remember when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and was welcomed by people waving palm leaves and placing them on the ground in front of him. Palm leaves symbolise goodness and well-being.



Maundy Thursday

On Maundy Thursday, the story of the Last Supper is remembered. 'Maundy' comes from a word that means command. At his last supper, Jesus told his disciples to love one another. Jesus knew that this would be his last supper and that one of his disciples (Judas), would betray him.

The Last Supper

During the Last Supper, Jesus shared some bread and wine with his disciples. Jesus said the bread was his body and the wine was his blood. During Holy Communion, Christians re-enact this special moment from the Last Supper.

