

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.



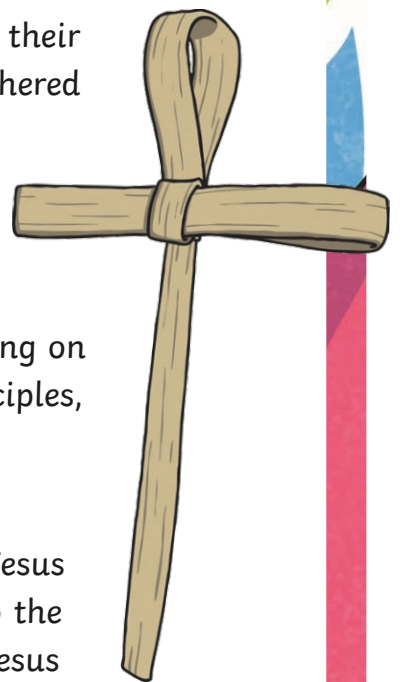
Maundy Thursday

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 by. It was later in the evening on Maundy Thursday when Jesus was betrayed by one of 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 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 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 – Follower 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?

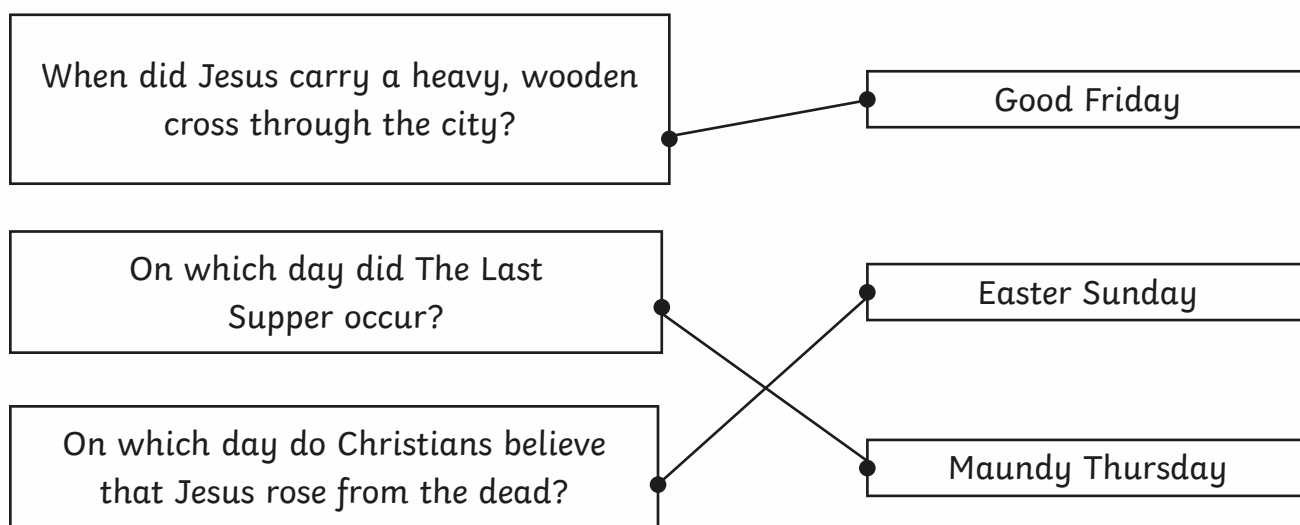
8. 'The most important day of Holy Week is Good Friday as it is the day that Jesus died.' Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

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.