

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'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** 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.

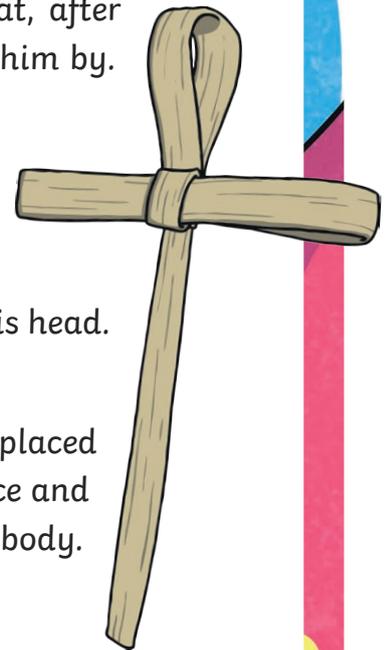


Maundy Thursday

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 by.

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'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 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 remove his body. That same day, and for 40 days afterwards, Jesus's disciples saw him and realised that God had raised him from the dead.



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 represent new life.

Glossary

Disciples – Follower 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's friends and family

Who discovered that Jesus's 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's tomb guarded by a Roman soldier? Tick one.

- so that Jesus did not escape
- so that nobody took Jesus's body
- to make sure that it stayed dark inside
- to prevent Jesus's 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's family and friends have felt on Easter Sunday? Explain your answer.

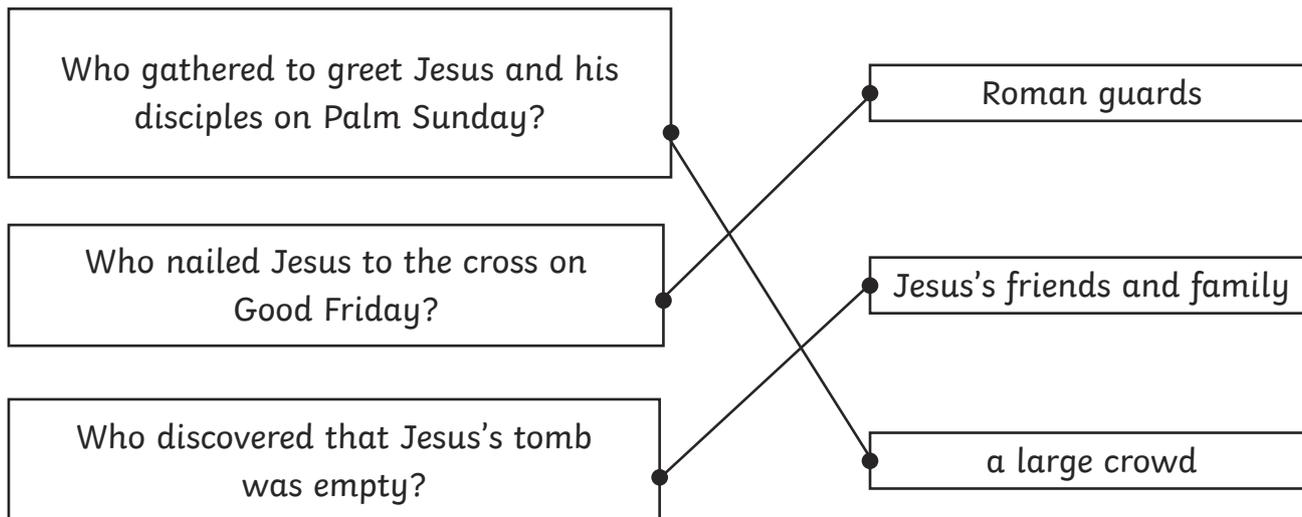
8. Explain why churches are filled with fresh flowers on Easter Sunday.

Answers

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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's family and friends have felt on Easter Sunday? Explain your answer.

Accept any suitable answer, such as: Jesus's family and friends may have felt shocked on Easter Sunday because Jesus's 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.