



Easter



PALM SUNDAY is the Sunday before Easter. It reminds believers about the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem when he was acknowledged by crowds waving palm branches. During a Palm Sunday service, palm crosses are distributed to the congregation who will then process carrying and waving palm branches. The palm crosses are burned at the start of Lent the next year to provide the ash for Ash Wednesday.



KEY VOCABULARY:

Ritual: A religious service or other ceremony which involves a series of actions performed in a fixed order.

Lent: Penitential season. The 40 days leading up to Easter.

Penance: Showing sorrow or repentance for sin

Ash Wednesday: The first day of Lent. In some Churches, believers receive the sign of the cross in ashes on their foreheads.

Holy week: The week before Easter, when Christians recall the last week of Jesus' life on Earth.

Procession: A crowd moving forward in an orderly way often with an agreed purpose and focus.

Hosanna: Hebrew word that means to 'save/rescue.'

Stripping of the Altar: Removing everything off the altar and out of the sanctuary area of the church.

Vigil: A period of time of keeping awake when usually you would be asleep, especially to keep watch and pray.

Eucharist: Part of a church service which recalls the last meal of Jesus and celebrates his sacrificial and saving death. Wine and bread/wafers are given to believers as a symbol of Jesus' blood and body. It is also called **Communion**.

Garden of Gethsemane: The garden where Jesus went to pray before he was arrested.

Paschal candle: A large white candle that is lit from the Easter fire and taken into the church as a symbol that Christ is now risen from the dead – the light of the world has come.

MAUNDY THURSDAY is the Thursday in Holy Week. It marks the Last Supper, which was the last meal Jesus ate with his disciples. The Eucharist will be celebrated in churches. Sometimes the priest will wash the feet of twelve people to commemorate Jesus' washing the feet of his disciples. In many churches, the service will end with the altar and sanctuary being stripped and left empty. The service ends with a 'prayer vigil' as a reminder that Jesus asked his disciples to remain with him and pray after the Last Supper.



GOOD FRIDAY is the day on which Christians remember Jesus' death. Christians believe that when Jesus died, He took the punishment for all of their individual sins. It is because of God's offering of Himself that humanity can be restored. The gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ is made available. Usually a service on Good Friday takes place between midday and 3pm.

HOLY SATURDAY is the day before Easter Sunday. It is a day of waiting and watching.



EASTER DAY is the day Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Churches will often be filled with flowers and colour. Special hymns and songs will be sung. The Eucharist will be celebrated. Easter Sunday marks the end of Lent.



Core
Concept
Salvation

CHURCH COLOURS

PURPLE used during Lent. Symbolises penance and preparation.

RED used on Good Friday. Symbolises sacrifice.

WHITE OR GOLD used on Easter Sunday. Symbolises joy and celebration.

