

How should the church celebrate Easter?

Year 2

Spring Term 2

Key Questions

What is the significance of the cross?

Why is it something all churches have in common?

How Lent and Easter are celebrated in the church?

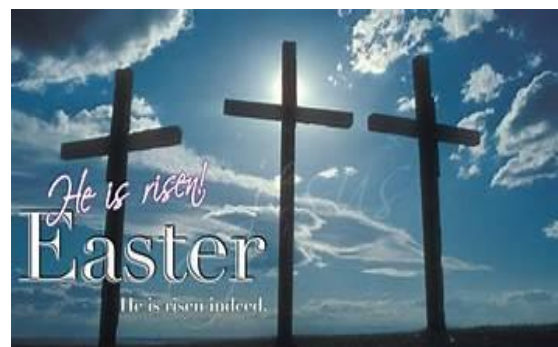
Why Baptisms used to happen always on Easter Sunday?

Why is Easter important for the church?

Why should the church celebrate Easter?

In this unit the children will learn:

- The Easter story and the key events of Holy Week
- That cross is significant for Christians because of the crucifixion
- How the events of Holy Week are remembered by the church



Key content:

- Easter is one of the key festivals of the Christian church. It is the festival that focuses on the resurrection of Jesus, after the crucifixion.
- The date of Easter is set according to the moon, which is why it varies each year.
- Passover is the Jewish festival that celebrates the liberation of the people of Israel from Egypt under Moses.
- The key events of Holy week are the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on the day Christians now call Palm Sunday; the last Supper on the day now known as Maundy Thursday; the crucifixion on Good Friday and the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Key content:

- During Holy week, it is usual to have red cloths, but on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday these are usually removed or replaced with black, depending on the tradition of the church.
- Easter Saturday is traditionally a waiting day. Orthodox Churches will often hold an all-night vigil, finishing with a noisy celebration service, with people running round the church.
- Many churches will have a dawn service, to remember the women approaching the tomb early in the morning on Resurrection or Easter Sunday. Communion is usually a feature of Easter services.

Key Vocabulary

Easter: the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ

Crucifixion: the execution of a person by nailing on a cross

Palm Sunday:

Baptism: admission to the Christian church

Church: a building used for public Christian worship

Passover: the commemoration of the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery

Maundy Thursday: the Thursday before Easter

