

Tuesday, 22 March 2022

What do Christians
celebrate at Easter?

Easter is a very special time for Christians when they remember the last week in the life of Jesus and their most important belief—that he came alive again after his death.

This brought us forgiveness with God so we could feel together with God again. This is a very hard thing to imagine but Christians feel that only Jesus could bring everyone close to God again because he himself was so close to God.

That means that when he died on the cross it is both a sad time for Christians but also a time to be thankful and joyful for the chance to be close to God again.

The week before Easter Sunday is called Holy Week and the Bible tells us that many things happened to Jesus on that week.

Christians remember these days (the main ones are below) and do special things on those days, some are sad days and some are joyful days.

Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday

Holy Saturday

Easter Sunday



Jesus arrives at Jerusalem.
(Palm Sunday)

Palm Sunday

People were happy on that day. They knew Jesus was coming to the city to talk about God. They waved palm branches to welcome him. There was lots of excitement.



He tells the dishonest people at the temple to leave.

On the Monday Jesus visited the temple to pray but noticed traders selling and exchanging money dishonestly. He was cross and told them to leave—the temple should have been a place to pray not to trade. This made the priests who ran the temple angry and they thought Jesus was a troublemaker. They complained to the Romans that he should be stopped.



He speaks to many people about God.

On the Tuesday Jesus spoke to many people about God. This was called the Sermon on the Mount

There is nothing about what he did on the Wednesday. It is thought he rested so this is sometimes called 'Sleeping Wednesday'

Maundy Thursday



He shares a last meal with his friends.
(Maundy Thursday)

On the Thursday he shared a meal with his 12 friends the Disciples. This is called the Last Supper or Maundy Thursday. The word Maundy means 'commandment' as it was here that Jesus commanded or told his friends to 'love one another as I have loved you'.

At the last Supper Jesus tells them he thinks he will die on a cross.



Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Good Friday

Jesus is very scared at this time and he goes into the garden to pray hoping that his friends can stay awake with him.



Jesus is arrested by the Romans.

The Roman soldiers come to take him away and he is arrested for upsetting the temple priests. The Governor in charge of Jerusalem decided to put Jesus to death on the cross.



He is put on a cross to die.
(Good Friday)

Christians remember this day as a sad day but call it 'Good Friday' because they believe Jesus' death would bring people closer to God.

(Good Friday)



At the tomb an angel appears to the women.
(Easter Sunday)



He shows his friends his wounds.

Easter Sunday

The Bible story says that Jesus' body was put into a tomb and a large stone was put in place over the opening. Women went to the tomb on the Sunday to pray but found it open and an angel there telling them that Jesus was alive

Some of them are not sure it is Jesus until he shows them his wounds.

Jesus goes up to Heaven to be with God afterwards but tells his Disciples that God will help them when he is gone.



To remember the happy time of Palm Sunday when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, Christians make crosses from palm leaves to give out on this day



To remember the Thursday Last Supper of Jesus, Christians have a little piece of bread and wine (or fruit juice). They call this Communion or Mass. It is very special to them. Some churches have Mass each week or each month not just at Easter. It is because at the Last Supper Jesus said 'do this to remember me.'



These people are walking in a procession to a church on the day Jesus had to carry his cross before he was put to death. It is called a Walk of Witness (witness means I know what happened or I saw it) and it is the saddest day in Holy Week.



These people have got up very early (at sunrise) to pray and celebrate the happiest day (Easter Sunday). They are remembering that it was early in the morning when the angel appeared to the women outside the tomb to say Jesus was alive. Someone is reading from the Bible to them.



On Easter Sunday, Christians come together in church services to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.