

# Happy Easter



## The days of Easter

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### Vocabulary

### Meaning

#### Resurrection

A person who has died, rises from the dead again to begin a new life. Jesus rose from the dead after three days. This is known as the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the son of god.

#### My head is spinning

This is an expression that means you are confused with something.

#### Fasting

You don't eat certain types of food for an amount of time. This usually happens during religious festivals. During Easter, the fasting lasts for 40 days is called 'lent.'

#### Christians

These are people who follow Christianity and see the Pope in Rome as their leader.

#### An indulgence

You allow yourself to enjoy something special and to not worry about doing it.

#### Go to confession

You got to church to speak to a priest one on one. You speak to them and tell them that you did something wrong, a sin, and ask for forgiveness.

#### Recipe

A set of instructions on how to prepare a dish or some type of food.

#### Custom

A tradition that belongs to a group of people. An example is giving each other Easter Eggs on Easter Sunday.

#### Pancake tossing

You throw pancakes in the air and try to catch them. Please see photo.

#### Crucified

To put someone to death by nailing them to a cross.

#### Bible

The book that Christians follow.

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Easter is a day to celebrate the death and **resurrection** of Jesus, the son of god. However, there are many days linked with this festival and it can be very confusing.

Is it Shrove Tuesday, Good Friday or Pancake day? What about Palm Sunday? **My head is spinning** and I am the one that wrote this.

Well don't worry, I shall do my best to break it down so you, and me, can understand the different days of Easter.

**Here we go!**

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## First up is Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday

Easter officially starts with lent on Ash Wednesday, 46 days before Easter Day. (Lent lasts for 40 days but you don't count the Sundays!) This is a time for **fasting** for **Christians**.

Lent required people to fast for 40 days (not including Sundays), but these days many **Christians** don't fast for the 40 days. Some choose to give up **an indulgence**, like coffee, chocolate, television, or social media for the 40-day period.

Shrove Tuesday is the day before lent starts on Ash Wednesday. The name Shrove comes from the old English word 'Shriven' meaning to go to **confession** to say sorry for the wrong things you've done.

Lent always starts on a Wednesday, so people went **to confessions** the day before. This became known as Shriven Tuesday and then Shrove Tuesday.

The other name for Shrove Tuesday, is Pancake Day, and comes from the old English custom of using up all the fattening ingredients in the house before Lent, so that people were ready to **fast** during the 40 days of Lent.

At that time, most people had eggs and milk. Therefore, a very simple **recipe** was to combine them with some flour and make pancakes! Which I am very happy about as they are delicious!

The **custom** of making pancakes still continues today, and in many U.K. towns and villages pancake races, and **pancake tossing** competitions are held on Shrove Tuesday. It's a fun day with lots of delicious pancakes to eat, race with and toss around.



The delicious pancakes!



Pancake tossing!

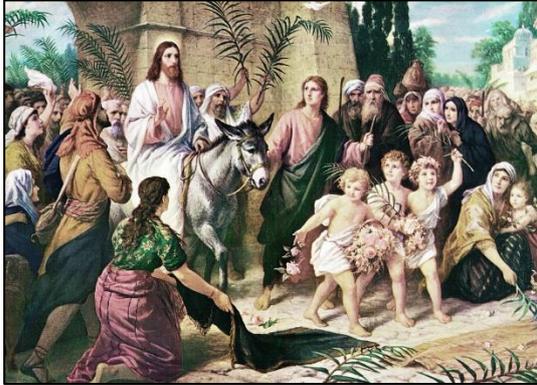


Pancake racing

# Happy Easter



## Next up is Palm Sunday



Jesus entering Jerusalem the Sunday before Easter



People placed Palm trees on the ground for him

This is the first day of Holy week and is the Sunday before Easter. It is when Christians remember how Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem riding on a donkey.

It is called Palm Sunday because the people were so happy to see Jesus, they took branches from the Palm and Olive Trees along the road. They waved them in the air shouting 'Hosanna' (which means 'God Saves' in Hebrew) and put some of them on the road to make it easier for the donkey to walk on the rocky road.

Today, to remember that day, **Christians** all over the world go to special Palm Sunday Church Services.



Christians carrying the cross and mass service

## Right, I hope that's a bit clearer now, so let's move on to Good Friday

Good Friday is a very important day for all Christians. Christians remember that Jesus died for everyone on this day. He was **crucified** by the Romans outside the city of Jerusalem, although he had not done anything wrong.

The 'Good' in Good Friday comes from old English when Good meant Holy. So, you could call Good Friday, 'Holy Friday'.

In some countries, including the U.K, sometimes a single person or group of church members, will carry a large wooden cross around the streets near the church, before the Good Friday mass service. They may be also followed by the rest of the people going to church. Sometimes they will stop and have a reading from the **Bible** or sing a song before going to the **mass service**.

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Easter Sunday is the day that Jesus Christ was resurrected



Christians will light candles at mass

## Time for chocolate and celebration as this is Easter Sunday. But what is this day about?

Easter Sunday or Easter Day is the most important day of the year for Christians. It is when they celebrate Jesus rising from the dead, also called '**the Resurrection**'.

A lot of Churches start the Easter Sunday celebrations at Midnight on Saturday Evening. Candles are used in churches all over the world to start the Easter Day Midnight celebrations. Candles help Christians to remember that Jesus is the light of the world and that when he rose to life on Easter Day, he got rid of all evil.

Churches are also filled with flowers on this day as they represent new life as Jesus has been re-born. Easter Day is also the end of lent and means the end of **fasting** for many. So, if you decided to stop drinking coffee for 40 days, get the coffee ready and drink all day long.

This is also the day where children are happy as Easter eggs are given out where they can eat chocolate without worrying what their parents might say.

So keep calm, eat as many as you can, and be merry!



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**We are almost there as there is one more day I want to tell you about, and that is Easter Monday.**

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Easter Monday is the day after Easter Sunday and is a national holiday in many countries. In some places it is called Ball Monday.

It is a fun day where games are played, and many events are put on for the children. Check out our Easter fun and games section to discover these fun events and games.

So, as you can see, Easter is a very busy time for Christians! And of course, it's great for the kids as they can **indulge** by eating all the chocolate eggs that they can get their hands on!

I hope the above helps and now you know about the many different days that happen during Easter.

So, is it Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Good Friday? That is the question.



Let the journey of discovery begin