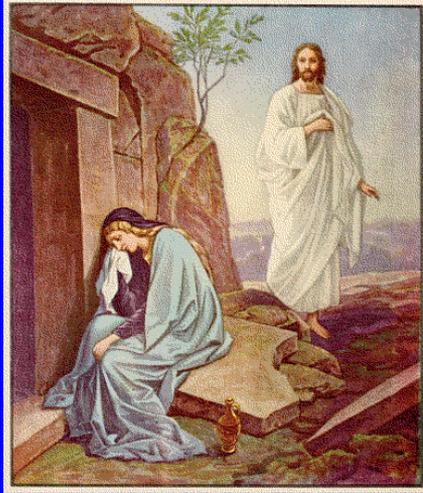


Good Morning

Tuesday 4th April 2017





EASTER



What is Easter?

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- Easter is *the* most important Christian festival.
 - Christians are followers of Jesus Christ who lived about 2000 years ago in a country called Palestine. They believe that Jesus was the son of God.
 - At Easter time Christians remember the last week of Jesus' life.

Where does Easter get its name from?

- One belief is that Easter got its name from the Goddess of Spring called Eostre who some people worshipped long before Jesus was born.
- At that time it was thought that the sun died in winter and was born again in spring when days would lengthen and the sun's power would return.
- In Europe, Eostre was honoured as the bringer of spring.



When is Easter?



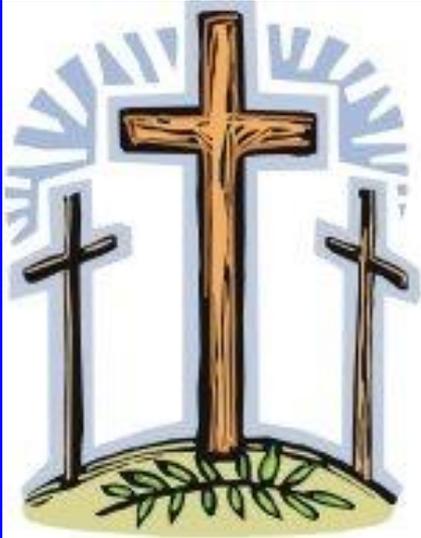
- Easter Day is always on a Sunday, but the date varies from year to year (unlike Christmas which is always on December 25).
- Many years ago Christians decided that Easter Day should be *always* be on the Sunday following the first full moon *after* the first day of Spring on March 21.
- This means that Easter can be as early as 22 March or as late as 25 April. For this reason Easter is called a movable feast.

What is Good Friday?

(Apart from a holiday)



- On Good Friday Christians remember the day that Jesus was killed on the cross by Roman soldiers.



- This is the reason why the cross is an important sign for Christians today. There are crosses in churches and many Christians wear a cross on a chain.

Why is it called *Good Friday*?



- It is known as *Good Friday* because Christians believe that Jesus gave up his life for the **good** of everyone.
- At Easter people eat hot cross buns which have a cross shape on the top.
- *Good Friday* is a sad day and churches never have flowers or decorations on this day. The church is left dark and there is just a simple cross on the altar.

What do Christians celebrate on Easter Sunday?

- Easter Sunday is a happy day for Christians because they believe that Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven on this day
- They believe that Jesus' resurrection or coming alive shows that death is not the end of everything.



How Christians celebrate on Easter Sunday?



- Many go to church to thank God for Jesus' life. Church bells are rung and churches are decorated with flowers such as white lilies which are associated with Easter.
- The colours in the church change to white or gold which are thought to be the best colours.

What have eggs got to do with Easter?

- The custom of giving eggs at Easter is celebration of new life.
- Eggs were always thought to be special because although they do not seem alive, they have life within them especially at springtime when chicks hatch out.
- Long ago people gave gifts of eggs carved from wood or precious stones.

