

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Easter

Easter is an important Christian festival, when Christians remember the death and **resurrection** of Jesus, who Christians believe to be the son of God.

Most Christians refer to the week before Easter as Holy Week. During this week, Christians remember the last week of Jesus' life. Holy Week contains many special days for Christians, beginning with Palm Sunday.

Palm Sunday

The Bible says that, on this day, Jesus and his **disciples** walked to Jerusalem for a Passover meal. Jesus sent two of his disciples to find a donkey. They brought the donkey to Jesus and draped cloaks on its back so that Jesus could ride on it. Lots of people had heard that Jesus was about to arrive so a large crowd had gathered to welcome him. As Jesus rode the donkey into Jerusalem, the crowd took palm leaves from the trees, laying them on the ground and waving them in the air in celebration.



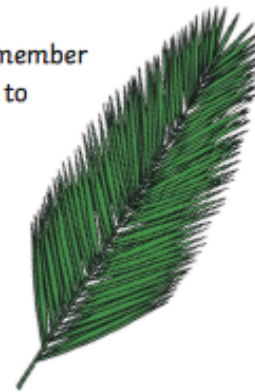
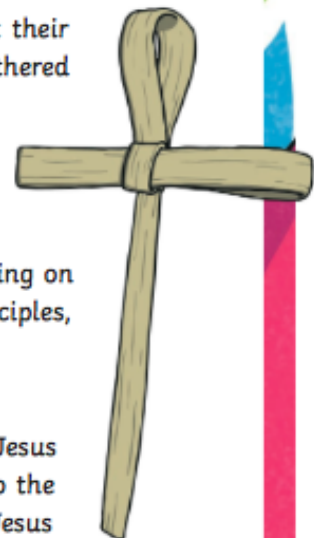
Maundy Thursday

On this day, Jesus and his disciples gathered together to eat their last meal together, known as The Last Supper. As his friends gathered at the house, Jesus surprised them by washing their feet and told them that they should always love one another.

Jesus then passed bread and wine around the table. He explained that, after his death, his friends should share bread and wine to remember him by. It was later in the evening on Maundy Thursday when Jesus was betrayed by one his disciples, named Judas.

Good Friday

It was on Good Friday that Christians believe that Jesus died. Jesus was made to carry a heavy, wooden cross through the city to the place where he would be crucified. The Roman guards nailed Jesus



to the cross and placed a crown made of thorns on his head. Some Christians believe that, as Jesus suffered, the sky turned black.

Holy Saturday

According to the Bible, the tomb of Jesus was found empty when his friends and family visited it. A heavy stone was rolled in front of the tomb's entrance and it was guarded by a Roman soldier.

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday is a happy day for Christians because it is the day that they believe that Jesus was resurrected. According to the Bible, the tomb of Jesus was found empty when his friends and family visited it. That same day, and for 40 days afterwards, Jesus' disciples saw him and realised that God had raised him from the dead. The resurrection of Jesus is important to Christians because it gives the promise of eternal life in heaven.

To celebrate Jesus' resurrection, special church services are held on this day. Gifts, including Easter eggs, are given and the church is filled with flowers which symbolise new life.



Glossary

Disciples – Follower of Jesus during his lifetime.

Resurrection – Rising from the dead.

Questions:

- 1) What was Jesus made to carry on Good Friday?

2. Draw a line to match the question to the correct answer.

Who gathered to greet Jesus and his disciples on Palm Sunday?	Roman guards
Who nailed Jesus to the cross on Good Friday?	Jesus' friends and family
Who discovered that Jesus' tomb was empty?	a large crowd

- 3) In which month is Easter Sunday most commonly celebrated?
- 4) Why was Jesus' tomb guarded by a Roman soldier?
- 5) How might Jesus' family and friends have felt on Easter Sunday? Explain.
- 6) Explain why churches are filled with fresh flower on Easter Sunday
- 7) Name two things that Jesus did on Maundy Thursday.
- 8) What do some Christians believe happened to the sky while Jesus suffered?
- 9) Find and copy a work which tells you that the stone at the opening of Jesus' tomb weighed a lot