

Key Vocabulary

Easter	The oldest and most important Christian festival.
Christians	People who follow the religion of Christianity.
Jesus	The son of God.
resurrection	When Jesus came back to life.
disciples	The twelve followers of Jesus.
symbolise	When something stands for something else.
betray	To be unfaithful or break a promise to someone.
Holy Communion	A special service in church, where Christians share bread and wine.

Holy Week

Holy Week is the week leading up to **Easter**. The **Easter** story is very important to **Christians** as it reminds them of **Jesus**' death and celebrates his **resurrection**. There are four important days during Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and **Easter** Sunday.



Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy Week. **Christians** remember when **Jesus** rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and was welcomed by people waving palm leaves and placing them on the ground in front of him. Palm leaves **symbolise** goodness and well-being.



Maundy Thursday

On Maundy Thursday, the story of the Last Supper is remembered. 'Maundy' comes from a word that means command. At his last supper, **Jesus** told his **disciples** to love one another. **Jesus** knew that this would be his last supper and that one of his **disciples** (Judas), would **betray** him.

The Last Supper

During the Last Supper, **Jesus** shared some bread and wine with his disciples. **Jesus** said the bread was his body and the wine was his blood. During **Holy Communion**, **Christians** re-enact this special moment from the Last Supper.



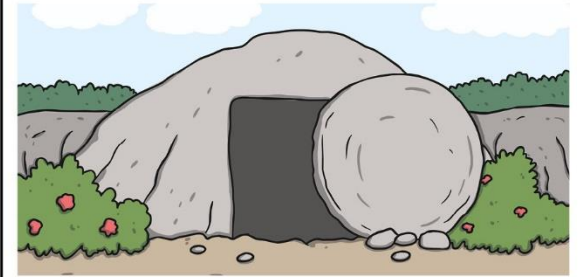
Key Vocabulary

crucified	Put to death on a cross.
sins	Bad actions.
tomb	A place cut into rock or underground, where the dead are buried.
eternal	Lasting forever.
heaven	Christians believe this is where God lives and where good people go after death.
bible	The Christian holy book.
hymns	Religious songs.

Good Friday

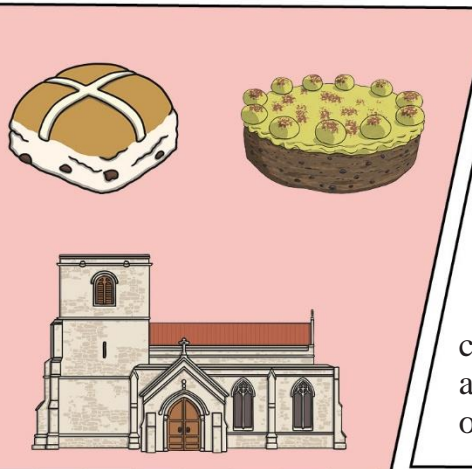
On Good Friday, **Christians** remember the day that **Jesus** was **crucified**. Leaders in Jerusalem were jealous that people listened to **Jesus** and so they had him **crucified**. **Christians** believe it is 'good', because **Jesus** showed great love and died for the **sins** of others. When he died, his body was put in a stone **tomb**.

On **Easter** Sunday, **Christians** celebrate **Jesus'** **resurrection**. The **resurrection** of **Jesus** gives **Christians** the promise of **eternal** life in **heaven**.



A Surprise

Some of **Jesus'** friends went to visit his **tomb** on the Sunday after he died. They were surprised to find it empty. After his **resurrection** **Jesus** visited his **disciples** before going up to **heaven** to live with God.



Easter Traditions

Many **Christians** go to church at **Easter**. Parts of the **Bible** are read and special **hymns** are sung. Hot cross buns are eaten. The cross reminds people that **Jesus** died on the cross. Many **Christians** send **Easter** cards. Simnel cake is eaten. It is a fruit cake with eleven marzipan balls on the top. These represent all of the **disciples** except Judas. Eggs are painted and chocolate eggs are given. The eggs **symbolise** new life and are the same shape as the rock that was rolled in front of **Jesus'** **tomb**.