

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday is the day that Christians celebrate Jesus rising from the dead.

What happens on Easter Sunday?



Christians gather together on Easter Sunday for a **Sunrise Service**. This service takes place on a hill side so everyone can see the sun rise.

Some Christians take part in an Easter vigil, lighting a new fire outside the church early on Sunday morning. The **Paschal candle**, decorated with studs to celebrate Christ's wounds, may be lit from the fire and carried into the church where it is used to light the candles of the worshippers. The Easter Eucharist is a particularly joyful service. It is a popular time for baptisms and renewal of baptism vows.

Some churches have an **Easter Garden**. A stone is placed across the mouth of a tomb before Easter, and then rolled away on Easter morning.

The traditional Easter gift is a chocolate egg.

The Traditional Egg Gift

The first eggs given at Easter were bird's eggs. These eggs were painted in bright colours to give them further meaning as a gift.

As chocolate became more wide spread in the 20th Century, a chocolate version of the traditional painted egg was developed. The size of the chocolate egg has grown over the years and is now more likely to be the size of an ostrich egg rather than a small bird's egg.

Easter Presents

Chocolate eggs are given to children. The eggs are either hollow or have a filling, and are usually covered with brightly coloured silver paper.



Easter cards

Easter cards arrived in Victorian England, when a stationer added a greeting to a drawing of a rabbit. The cards proved popular.

Special Food at Easter

After the fast weeks of Lent, food at Easter was always a special treat.

Boiled eggs are traditionally served at breakfast, then Easter cards and gifts may be exchanged.

Roast lamb, which is the main dish at Jewish Passover, is the traditional meat for the main meal on Easter Day. It is served with mint sauce and vegetables.

The traditional Easter pudding is **custard tarts** sprinkled with currants and flat **Easter biscuits**.

Simnel cake is baked for tea.