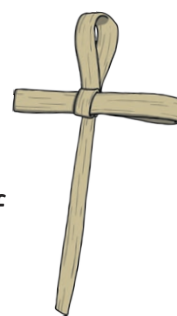


# Easter

Easter is an important Christian festival. Not only do Christians remember that Jesus died on the cross, they also celebrate that He came back to life.

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday.

The First Holy Week	Holy Week Today
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	
<p>Jesus and His followers went to Jerusalem for a special meal. He travelled on a donkey.</p> <p>Jesus arrived in Jerusalem a big crowd of people waved palm leaves. They were very happy to see Him.</p> <p>Not everyone liked Jesus because they were jealous of Him.</p>	<p>The day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem is called Palm Sunday. Churches hold special services to remember this day.</p> <p>People are given a palm cross.</p> <p>The cross is a symbol of the Christian faith.</p>
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	
<p>Jesus washed the feet of His closest friends, also called His disciples. He told them to always look after one another.</p> <p>Jesus ate a special meal with His disciples. He knew He was going to die because one of His disciples would betray Him. This was Jesus' last supper.</p> <p>At the meal, Jesus broke the bread and blessed it. He told His disciples that it was His body and they when they eat it they should remember Him. Jesus then took a cup of wine and blessed it. He told his disciples</p>	<p>Some churches have foot-washing on Maundy Thursday.</p> <p>In church services, Christians still share the bread and wine as a reminder of Jesus. This is called Holy Communion.</p>



that it was His blood and that when they drink it they should remember him.

After the meal, Judas, one of the disciples, betrayed Jesus. Guards took Jesus away.

### Good Friday

Jesus had to carry a heavy cross through the city. He was beaten and laughed at by the Roman soldiers. He had to wear a crown of thorns.

Jesus was nailed to a cross and died. This is called the crucifixion.

Good Friday is a very special day for Christians. Services take place in church.

Jesus gave His life for the good of everyone so the day is called 'Good' Friday.

### Easter Sunday

Mary, one of Jesus' friends, went to visit the tomb where Jesus' body lay. When she got there, she saw the stone had been rolled back and Jesus' body was gone.

Over the next 40 days, Jesus appeared to his disciples and to many other people. The people knew that Jesus had come back to life. This is called the resurrection.

Easter Sunday is a day of celebration for Christians as they believe that Jesus was resurrected.

Special church services take place.



### Other Easter Traditions

Hot cross buns are eaten at Easter. The cross reminds Christians of when Jesus' died.

Many Christians eat chocolate eggs too. The egg is a sign of new life, just like when Jesus came back to life.



# Questions

1. Holy Week begins on...

Palm Sunday

Good Friday

Maundy Thursday

Easter Sunday

2. What might you be given if you go to church on Palm Sunday?

A book

A flower

A cross

A crown

3. Which food and drink did Jesus share at the Last Supper?

Wine and bread

Wine and fruit

Water and fruit

Water and bread

4. Why is the cross an important Christian symbol?

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5. Who betrayed Jesus?

Andrew

Luke

John

Judas

6. What is the name for sharing the bread and wine at a church service?

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7. Match up the correct answers:

On Palm Sunday...

Jesus ate his last supper.

On Maundy Thursday...

Jesus came back to life.

On Good Friday...

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

On Easter Sunday...

Jesus died on the cross.

8. Tick the foods eaten at Easter which remind Christians of what happened to Jesus:

sweets

hot cross buns

chocolate eggs

fruit

# Answers

1. Holy Week begins on...

**Palm Sunday**

Good Friday

Maundy Thursday

Easter Sunday

2. What might you be given if you go to church on Palm Sunday?

A book

A flower

**A cross**

A crown

3. Which food and drink did Jesus share at the Last Supper?

**Wine and bread**

Wine and fruit

Water and fruit

Water and bread

4. Why is the cross an important Christian symbol?

**Christians believe that Jesus died on the cross, giving His life for the good of everyone. The cross is a way of remembering this.**

5. Who betrayed Jesus?

Andrew

Luke

John

**Judas**

6. What is the name for sharing the bread and wine at a church service?

**This is called Holy Communion.**

7. Match up the correct answers:

On Palm Sunday...

Jesus ate his last supper.

On Maundy Thursday...

Jesus came back to life.

On Good Friday...

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

On Easter Sunday...

Jesus died on the cross.

8. Tick the foods eaten at Easter which remind Christians of what happened to Jesus:

sweets

**hot cross buns**

**chocolate eggs**

fruit

# Easter

Easter is an important Christian festival. At this time of the year, Christians remember the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The week leading up to Easter Sunday is called Holy Week. During this week, Christians remember the last week of Jesus' life. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday.

## The First Palm Sunday

Jesus and His followers went to Jerusalem for the Passover meal. As Jesus rode the donkey, people cut branches from the palm trees and put them on the ground in front of Him. They shouted, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the King of Israel!" This was to show Jesus that they believed in Him as their King.

To welcome Jesus into Jerusalem, a large crowd waved palm leaves. The leaders saw how the people loved Jesus and they became angry and jealous.

## Palm Sunday Today

Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter Day. There are special church services which remember Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem. Crosses made from palm leaves are given out as a symbol of the Christian faith.



## The First Maundy Thursday

Jesus washed the feet of His disciples and told them they must serve others, just as Jesus had served them.

Jesus celebrated Passover with His disciples. He knew He was soon to die and that this meal would be His last; this is known as the Last Supper. One of Jesus' disciples would betray Him.

During the meal, Jesus broke the bread and blessed it. He told his disciples that the bread was his body and they should eat it in remembrance of Him. Jesus then took a cup of wine, blessed it and said that this was His blood. He told the disciples to drink it in remembrance of Him.

Later, Jesus and His disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus prayed to God and the disciples fell asleep. Judas, one of the disciples, came into the garden with guards and priests. As a signal to the guards, Judas kissed Jesus on the cheek, then the guards arrested Jesus and took Him away.



### Maundy Thursday Today

In church, Christians still remember the Last Supper, this is called Holy Communion. It reminds Christians of Jesus' sacrifice.

#### Did you know

Some churches still hold foot-washing ceremonies on this day.

### The First Good Friday

Jesus was handed over to the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, and made to carry a large, wooden cross through the city to the place where He would be crucified. As He walked, the Roman soldiers laughed at Him, beat Him and made Him wear a crown of thorns.

Finally, Jesus was nailed to the cross. He was placed between two robbers who were also being crucified. Soon after, Jesus died.

### Good Friday Today

Good Friday is a special day for Christians and services are held in church. They remember how Jesus sacrificed His own life so that others could be forgiven for the bad things they had done. Christians believe that Jesus gave His life for the 'good' of everyone, which is why the day is called 'Good' Friday.

### The First Holy Saturday

Jesus' body was placed in a tomb. A heavy stone was rolled in front of the tomb's entrance and guarded by a Roman soldier.

### Holy Saturday Today

Church services take place and the Easter candle (or Paschal candle) is lit. This is a time of waiting for Jesus' resurrection.



### The First Easter Sunday

On the Sunday morning, one of Jesus' friends, Mary Magdalene, went to visit the tomb. When she got there, she found that the stone had been rolled away and Jesus' body was gone. Over the next 40 days, Jesus appeared to His disciples and to many other people. They realised that Jesus had risen from the dead.

## Easter Sunday Today

Easter Sunday is a day of celebration for Christians as they believe that Jesus came back to life. The resurrection of Jesus is very important to Christians as it gives the promise of eternal life in heaven. There are special church services on this day.

## Other Easter Traditions

On Easter Sunday, many Christians celebrate with a special meal.

Hot cross buns are eaten at this time of year. The cross reminds Christians of Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection.

Chocolate eggs are also eaten. The egg is a sign of new life, just like when Jesus came back to life.

Many Christians also give and receive Easter cards.



### Glossary

**disciples:** the 12 disciples were men who travelled with Jesus and learned from him. They were Jesus' closest friends.

**resurrection:** to come back to life

**sacrifice:** to give something up for the sake of others

# Questions

1. On the first Palm Sunday...

Jesus washed the feet of his disciples

Jesus arrived in Jerusalem

Jesus' body was placed in the tomb

Jesus was crucified

2. What might you be given if you go to church on Palm Sunday?

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3. The Last Supper took place on ...

Palm Sunday

Good Friday

Easter Day

Maundy Thursday

Holy Saturday

4. What is the significance of Holy Communion during church services today?

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5. Why is the day called 'Good Friday'?

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6. Match up the correct answers:

Good Friday

A day of Christian celebration when Jesus came back to life.

Holy Saturday

Jesus' crucifixion took place on this day.

Easter Day

Church services take place in the evening and the Easter candle is lit.

7. How did Mary Magdalene feel when she saw that Jesus' body had disappeared from the tomb?

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8. In the Garden of Gethsemane...

- Judas kissed Jesus on the cheek to identify him to the guards.
- Judas shook hands with Jesus to identify him to the guards.
- Judas bowed before Jesus to identify him to the guards.
- Judas shouted Jesus' name to identify him to the guards.

9. Why is the cross an important Christian symbol?

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10. How does eating Easter eggs help Christians to remember Jesus at Easter time?

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# Answers

1. On the first Palm Sunday...

Jesus washed the feet of his disciples

**Jesus arrived in Jerusalem**

Jesus' body was placed in the tomb

Jesus was crucified

2. What might you be given if you go to church on Palm Sunday?

**Crosses made from palm leaves are given out as a symbol of the Christian faith.**

3. The Last Supper took place on ...

Palm Sunday

Good Friday

Easter Day

**Maundy Thursday**

Holy Saturday

4. What is the significance of Holy Communion during church services today?

**Holy Communion reminds Christians of Jesus' sacrifice.**

5. Why is the day called 'Good Friday'?

**Christians believe that Jesus gave His life for the 'good' of everyone, which is why the day is called 'Good' Friday.**

6. Match up the correct answers:

Good Friday ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ A day of Christian celebration when Jesus came back to life.

Holy Saturday ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ Jesus' crucifixion took place on this day.

Easter Day ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ Church services take place in the evening and the Easter candle is lit.

7. How did Mary Magdalene feel when she saw that Jesus' body had disappeared from the tomb?

**Mary Magdalene must have felt sad because she was weeping. She was upset because she thought someone had taken Jesus' body away.**

8. In the Garden of Gethsemane...

**Judas kissed Jesus on the cheek to identify him to the guards.**

Judas shook hands with Jesus to identify him to the guards.

Judas bowed before Jesus to identify him to the guards.

Judas shouted Jesus' name to identify him to the guards.

9. Why is the cross an important Christian symbol?

**The cross is an important Christian symbol because Christians believe Jesus was crucified on the cross. Jesus gave His life for the 'good' of everyone and the cross is an important reminder of this.**

10. How does eating Easter eggs help Christians to remember Jesus at Easter time?

**The egg is a sign of new life, just like when Jesus came back to life.**

# Easter

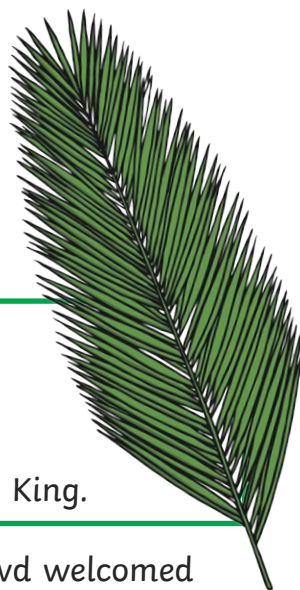
Easter is the time when Christians call to mind the crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus, the Son of God.

The week leading up to Easter is called Holy Week (the final week of Lent). During this time, Christians remember the last week of Jesus' life. The dates differ each year but Holy Week always begins on Palm Sunday.

## The First Palm Sunday

Jesus travelled to Jerusalem for the Passover meal. He told two of his followers to bring him a donkey. He also said, "Tell the people of Jerusalem your King is coming, He is gentle and riding on a donkey." The followers did as Jesus asked, they found and brought a donkey to Jesus and laid their cloaks on its back for Jesus to sit on.

Palm leaves covered the ground as Jesus rode towards Jerusalem. Crowds gathered and shouted, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the King of Israel!" This showed that they believed in Him and that in their eyes, He was King.

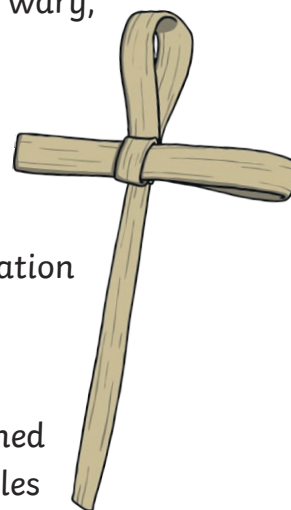


When Jesus entered Jerusalem, an enormous, excited crowd welcomed him, waving palm leaves and shouting, "Hosanna!" The people were so pleased to see him. Jesus went to heal the lame and blind in the temple.

His popularity caused the leaders in Jerusalem to become wary, envious and resentful towards Jesus.

## Palm Sunday Today

Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter. Often, churches hold special services to remember Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem. Palm leaf crosses are distributed to the congregation as a symbol of the Christian faith.



## The First Maundy Thursday

On Thursday, Jesus gathered His disciples together and washed their feet. Just as He had served them, He instructed his disciples to serve others.

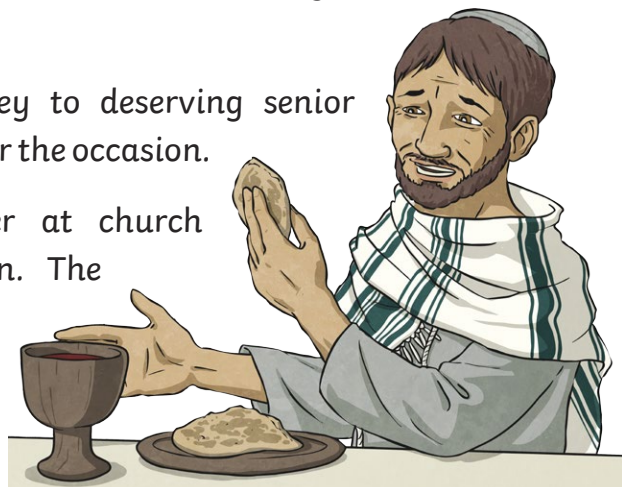
Jesus celebrated Passover with His disciples, despite knowing that one of them would betray Him. During the meal, Jesus broke the bread and blessed it. He said that this represented His body and that they should eat it and remember Him. Next, Jesus took a cup of wine and blessed it. He told them that this was His blood and they should drink it in remembrance of Him. This is known as the Last Supper.

Later, Jesus and His disciples visited the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus prayed and the disciples fell asleep. One of the disciples, Judas, entered the garden with guards and priests by His side. Judas kissed Jesus on the cheek to signal who Jesus was. The guards seized Jesus and He was taken away.

### Maundy Thursday Today

The Queen distributes Maundy money to deserving senior citizens. The coins are specially made for the occasion.

Christians re-enact the Last Supper at church and this is called Holy Communion. The congregation share wine and bread in remembrance of how Jesus sacrificed His life for mankind.



### Did you know

Centuries ago, the monarch of the period would wash the feet of poor people as a gesture of humility and in remembrance of Jesus' actions. The last monarch to do this was James II. Some churches still hold foot-washing ceremonies on Maundy Thursday. The word 'Maundy' comes from a word which means 'command'.

### The First Good Friday

Jesus was handed over to the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate. It was His job to decide what would happen to Jesus. Pilate consulted the crowd and they shouted, "Crucify him!".

Jesus was made to carry a heavy, wooden cross through the city to the place where He would be crucified. He was mocked and beaten by the Roman soldiers and made to wear a crown of thorns.



Jesus was nailed to the cross. He was placed between two thieves who were also being crucified. Soon after, Jesus died.

### **Good Friday Today**

Good Friday is a day of mourning for Christians and special services are held in church. Christians reflect on how Jesus sacrificed His own life so that others could be forgiven for their sins. Christians believe that Jesus gave His life for the 'good' of everyone; hence the name 'Good' Friday. No floral decorations are used in church at this time of year.

### **The First Holy Saturday**

Holy Saturday was a day of mourning after the crucifixion.

Jesus' body was lifted down from the cross, wrapped in a shroud and placed in a tomb. A large and heavy stone was rolled in front of the entrance and a Roman soldier stood on guard.

Following Jesus' arrest, His disciples fled, hiding for fear of meeting the same fate.

### **Holy Saturday Today**

Church services are held on the night of Holy Saturday and the Paschal candle, also known as the Easter candle, is lit. This candle is much larger than a normal candle.

### **The First Easter Sunday**

One of Jesus' friends, Mary Magdalene, visited the tomb. When she arrived, she found that the huge stone had been rolled back and Jesus' body had disappeared. She ran to tell the disciples and some came to look for themselves.



Mary stayed by the tomb; she was weeping. Someone spoke to her to ask why she was crying. She explained that someone had taken Jesus' body and that she didn't know where it was. "Mary," said the stranger. Mary looked up to see that the stranger was Jesus.

Jesus appeared to his disciples, and many others, over the next 40 days. People came to realise that he had risen from the dead.

## Easter Sunday Today

Easter Sunday is a day of celebration for Christians. Jesus is believed to have been resurrected on this day. The resurrection of Jesus is very important to Christians as it gives them the promise of eternal life in heaven.

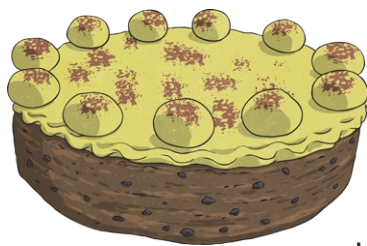
On this day, there are special church services, church bells ring and flowers decorate the building.

## Other Easter Traditions

Christians may get together with friends and family to eat a special meal of celebration on Easter Sunday.

Another Easter tradition is eating hot cross buns. The cross reminds Christians of Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection.

Many people give and receive chocolate eggs at Easter time as the egg is symbolic of new life, just like when Jesus was resurrected.



Some families may also eat Simnel cake. This is a special fruit cake, the top layer of the cake is decorated with 11 marzipan balls, one for each of the faithful disciples. Judas (the 12th disciple) is left out because he betrayed Jesus.

Some Christians also exchange Easter cards.

# Questions

1. What do you think is meant by 'deserving' senior citizens?

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2. The word 'Maundy' comes from a word which means 'command'.  
How does this relate to the story of the first Maundy Thursday?

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3. Who was the last monarch to carry out the foot-washing ceremony on Maundy Thursday?

Charles I

Elizabeth II

James II

George I

4. During the Last Supper, what did Jesus say the bread and wine symbolised?

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5. Why are palm leaf crosses given out to the congregation on Palm Sunday?

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6. Why do you think Pontius Pilate made Jesus carry a large, heavy, wooden cross through the city to the place where he was to be crucified?

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7. Order the following events of Holy Week:

Easter Day    Palm Sunday    Holy Saturday    Maundy Thursday    Good Friday

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Next, write down one thing that happened on that day during the first Holy Week.

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8. Why is the Friday of Holy Week called 'Good' Friday when something sad happened on that day?

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9. How do you think Jesus' faithful disciples felt on Holy Saturday?

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10. What do hot cross buns, Easter eggs and Simnel cake symbolise? Explain your answer in detail.

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11. True or False? If the statement is false, write the correct answer.

- Judas identified Jesus to the guards by shaking his hand.

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- Today, Good Friday is a day of mourning for Christians.

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- Pontius Pilate was a Roman Governor

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- For 70 days after the resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples and to many other people.

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**Extension:** Find out about how Easter is celebrated in other parts of the world.

# Answers

1. What do you think is meant by 'deserving' senior citizens?

**I think the word 'deserving' means that the people who get the money must have done something good to deserve it.**

2. The word 'Maundy' comes from a word which means 'command'.

How does this relate to the story of the first Maundy Thursday?

**During the first Maundy Thursday, Jesus instructed his disciples to serve each other. This was a command given by Jesus.**

3. Who was the last monarch to carry out the foot-washing ceremony on Maundy Thursday?

Charles I

Elizabeth II

**James II**

George I

4. During the Last Supper, what did Jesus say the bread and wine symbolised?

**During the Last Supper, Jesus said that the bread represented his body and the wine represented his blood.**

5. Why are palm leaf crosses given out to the congregation on Palm Sunday?

**Palm leaf crosses are distributed to the congregation as a symbol of the Christian faith.**

**Palm leaves are used as people covered the ground with them as Jesus rode towards Jerusalem. Also, when Jesus entered Jerusalem, an enormous crowd welcomed him, waving palm leaves and shouting "Hosanna!"**

6. Why do you think Pontius Pilate made Jesus carry a large, heavy, wooden cross through the city to the place where he was to be crucified?

**Various answers - I think Pilate wanted to make Jesus suffer for His popularity.**

7. Order the following events of Holy Week:

Easter Day    Palm Sunday    Holy Saturday    Maundy Thursday    Good Friday

**Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Day.**

Next, write down one thing that happened on that day during the first Holy Week.

**Answers may include:**

**Palm Sunday – Jesus travelled to Jerusalem for the Passover meal, people shouted**



**“Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the King of Israel!”**, Jesus entered Jerusalem and was welcomed by an enormous, excited crowd waving palm leaves and shouting **“Hosanna!”**, Jesus went to heal the lame and blind in the temple.

**Maundy Thursday** – Jesus gathered his disciples together and washed their feet, Jesus instructed His disciples to serve each other, Jesus celebrated Passover with His twelve disciples. Jesus and His disciples visited the Garden of Gethsemane, Judas betrayed Jesus, Jesus was seized and taken away by guards.

**Good Friday** – Jesus was handed over to the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, Jesus was made to carry a heavy, wooden cross through the city to the place where he would be crucified, Jesus was mocked and beaten by the Roman soldiers as he dragged the cross, and made to wear a crown of thorns. Jesus was nailed to the cross, He was crucified and died.

**Holy Saturday** - Holy Saturday was a day of mourning after the crucifixion, Jesus' body was lifted down from the cross, wrapped in a shroud and placed in a stone tomb, the disciples were in hiding.

**Easter Day** – Mary Magdalene visited Jesus' tomb, Mary found that the huge stone had been rolled back and Jesus' body had disappeared. Mary stayed by the tomb and Jesus appeared to her. Jesus had risen from the dead, this is called the resurrection.

8. Why is the Friday of Holy Week called 'Good' Friday when something sad happened on that day?

**Christians believe that Jesus gave His life for the 'good' of everyone hence the name 'Good' Friday.**

9. How do you think Jesus' faithful disciples felt on Holy Saturday?

**The disciples were in fear of meeting the same fate as Jesus which suggests they would have been very frightened. They would have also been very sad.**

10. What do hot cross buns, Easter eggs and Simnel cake symbolise?  
Explain your answer in detail.

**Hot cross buns, Easter eggs and Simnel cake all symbolise the Easter story in some way. Simnel cake is decorated with 11 marzipan balls, one for each of the disciples. Judas is left out because he betrayed Jesus. Hot cross buns have a cross on the top which reminds Christians of Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection and Easter eggs are symbolic of new life, just like when Jesus was resurrected.**

11. True or False? If the statement is false, write the correct answer.

- Judas identified Jesus to the guards by shaking his hand.

**False - Judas kissed Jesus on the cheek to signal who Jesus was to the guards.**

- Today, Good Friday is a day of mourning for Christians.

**True**

- Pontius Pilate was a Roman Governor

**True**

- For 70 days after the resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples and to many other people.

**False – Jesus appeared to his disciples, and many others, over the next 40 days.**