



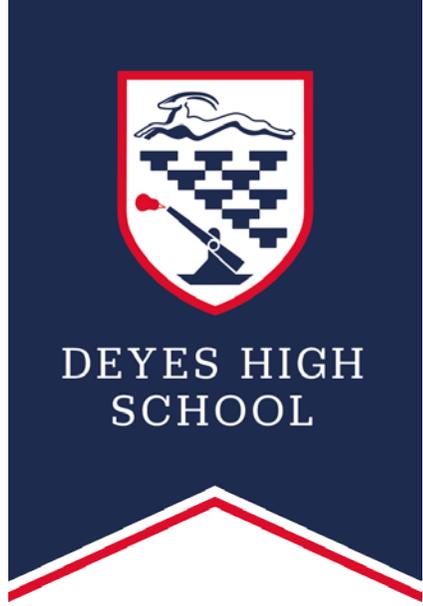
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THOUGHT FOR
THE WEEK

Easter





What is Easter?

Easter is a **very important holiday for Christians**. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ, three days after his crucifixion. The name, Easter, is derived from Eostre, a goddess of spring and fertility.



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Easter is typically recognised by Christians with;

- Prayer
- All-night vigil
- Sunrise service

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The Easter story

The Easter story is at the heart of Christianity

On Good Friday, Jesus Christ was executed by crucifixion. His body was taken down from the cross, and buried in a cave.

The tomb was guarded and an enormous stone was put over the entrance, so that no-one could steal the body.

On the following Sunday, some women visited the grave and found that the stone had been moved, and that the tomb was empty.

Jesus himself was seen that day, and for days afterwards by many people. His followers realised that God had raised Jesus from the dead.



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The days leading up to Easter...



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Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday in the United Kingdom celebrates Jesus Christ's entry into Jerusalem. It is also the Sunday before Easter Sunday.



Maundy Thursday

Many Christians in the United Kingdom celebrate Maundy Thursday on the Thursday before Good Friday.



Good Friday

Good Friday is just before Easter Sunday and is a public holiday in the United Kingdom.



Holy Saturday

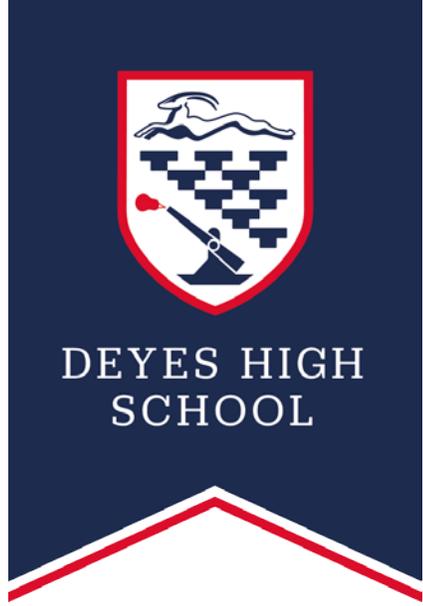
Holy Saturday is the day before Easter Sunday in the United Kingdom.

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Good Friday

Good Friday is the **day that Christians commemorate the betrayal, crucifixion and death of Jesus**. The solemn day of mourning is spent with fasting, prayer, repentance and meditation.

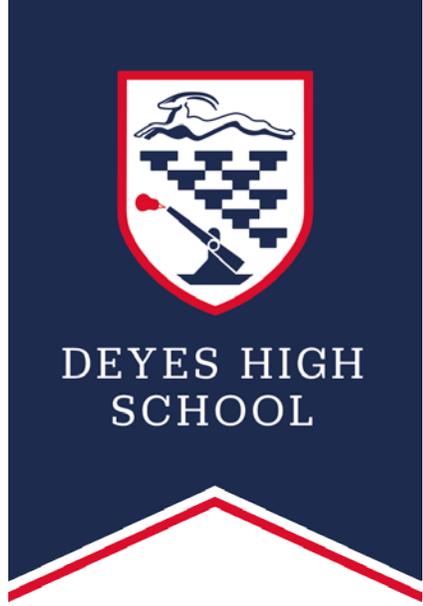
According to Christianity, Jesus was executed on Good Friday, and died for our sins. In doing so, he sacrificed his flesh. This is why the Church encourages followers to abstain from meaty flesh on the anniversary of Christ's death. Fish, as it comes from the sea, is perceived to be a different kind of flesh, therefore it's okay to eat it on Good Friday. Fish shapes were used as a secret symbol for Christians to identify each other when their religion was banned, and many of Christ's closest followers were fishermen too.



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When is Easter Sunday 2020?

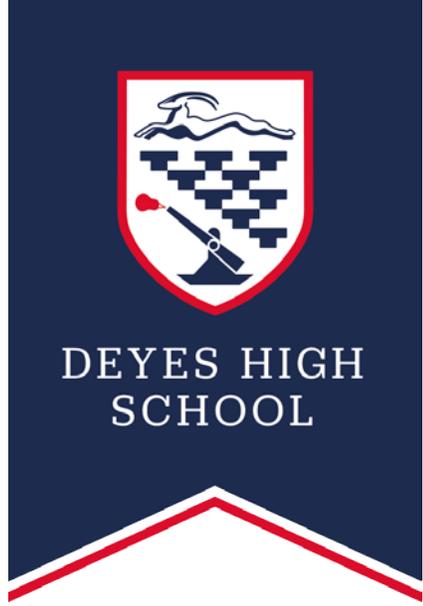
This year Easter will be celebrated on **Sunday, 12 April**

Easter Day is always on a Sunday but the date varies unlike Christmas, which is always on 25 December. Many years ago Christians decided that Easter Day always be on the Sunday following the first full moon after the first day of Spring, around 21 March. This means that Easter can be as early as 22 March or as late as 25 April.



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Easter Monday

Easter Monday, also known as Bright Monday, Renewal Monday, Wet Monday is the Monday immediately after Easter Sunday. It marks the beginning of Easter Week.

In the UK it is a bank holiday meaning that schools and some businesses are closed



Different cultures observe Easter Monday very differently. For some, Easter Monday is a solemn remembrance of Christ's death and resurrection marked by an outdoor procession. For others, there are Easter egg-rolling competitions and Easter bonnet making. For still others, siblings and/or spouses wake each other up by pouring buckets of water on each other (hence the name "Wet Monday").

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Easter Eggs

The custom of giving eggs at Easter celebrates new life. Christians remember that Jesus, after dying on the cross, rose from the dead. This miracle showed that life could win over death.

For Christians the egg is a symbol of Jesus' resurrection, as when they are cracked open they stand for the empty tomb. No-one actually knows when eggs were first used as symbols at festival times but it was long before Jesus' time. 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. The first sweet eggs that were eaten were made in the last 100 years from sugar or marzipan. Since then chocolate eggs have become popular and these are given on Easter Sunday.

In some countries parents tell their children the Easter Hare or Bunny has hidden chocolate eggs and they race to find them round the house or garden. Children in other countries decorate hard-boiled eggs at Easter time by painting or dyeing them.



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Celebrating Easter in isolation

- Set your self an Easter resolution
- Have a family meal
- Exchange chocolate Easter eggs
- Do an Easter egg hunt in your garden
- Decorate a boiled Easter egg
- Make and give an Easter themed gift or card to a family member or neighbour



**SEND ANY PICTURES OF YOUR EASTER CELEBRATIONS
FOR OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER TO
l.bytheway@deyeshigh.co.uk**

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Clap for Carers: UK in 'emotional' tribute to NHS and care workers

At 8pm on Thursday 26th March, people around the UK took part in a "Clap for Carers" tribute, saluting NHS and care workers dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. Thousands of Brits joined the campaign, which was backed by a number of celebrities including Meghan Markle, Alan Carr and Victoria Beckham, and together made an incredible amount of noise. The Royal Family and the prime minister joined well-wishers who flocked to their balconies and windows to applaud. Videos of what became an extremely moving moment were widely shared on social media. A message from the NHS on social media described the tribute as "emotional".

Annemarie Plas, 36, from Brixton, London, came up with the idea after seeing something similar in her home country The Netherlands. She told Mirror Online: "What I've seen in my home country made me look a little deeper into it and I saw the boost that it gave to the frontline and the togetherness it brought to the people that were stuck in their homes.



"The front line is doing their best they can, being exposed to the virus. We are 'safe' at home and of course finding that challenging, but it is in no way as hard as what they are doing. And I want them to know that we are behind them and feel so grateful of them doing that for us."

[Click to watch the nation clap!](#)

Clap for our Carers

#clapforourcarers

