

The Easter Story

1. Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey, welcomed by crowds of people laying clothes and palm leaves on the road. This event is celebrated on Palm Sunday.
2. **Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples, is paid thirty pieces of silver by the Jewish High Priests to betray Jesus to them so that they can arrest Jesus.**
3. Jesus and his disciples have a meal together, where Jesus tells them he will be killed by people who don't like what he says. He tells them that they must remember him by eating bread, symbolising his body, and drinking wine, symbolising his blood. This is known as the Last Supper.
4. **After supper, Jesus and some of his disciples, went to the Garden of Gethsemane. He asked his friends to watch over him while he prayed, but they fell asleep, and Judas arrived with soldiers to arrest Jesus.**
5. One of Jesus disciples, Peter, follows Jesus after he has been arrested, but when someone asks Peter if he knows Jesus, he says no, and Jesus prediction that his friends will abandon him becomes true.
6. **Jesus is put on trial and accused of being offensive to God. He is crucified with two criminals after carrying his cross through Jerusalem.**
7. Eventually Jesus dies, is taken down from the cross and buried in a stone tomb.
8. **When some friends return to complete burial rituals on Jesus' body, the tomb is open and Jesus' body is gone.**
9. Disciples and others see Jesus alive again and he says he has been resurrected, before he is seen disappearing (ascending) into Heaven.

Key days

Holy Week – The week leading up to Easter Sunday, beginning on Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday - Jesus returns to Jerusalem on a donkey.

Maundy Thursday - Jesus celebrates Passover but is betrayed.

Good Friday – Jesus is crucified.

Easter Sunday - Resurrection of Jesus.

Symbols



The Cross – represents the crucifixion of Jesus, and triumph and salvation.



Palm Leaves - they symbolise goodness and victory and were waved at the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.



Lamb of God – a title given to Jesus who Christians believe took away the sins of the world.



Bread and Wine – bread symbolises Jesus' body and the wine represents his blood.



Easter eggs - symbolises the beginning of new life (Jesus' resurrection), some Christians also believe that it represents the tomb.

Key vocabulary

Disciples

A dedicated follower of Jesus, there were 12 in total.

Garden of Gethsemane

Where Jesus prayed on the night of his betrayal and arrest.

Trial

A formal meeting to see whether a person is guilty of a crime.

Crucified

To put someone to death by nailing them to a cross.

Resurrected

Bringing a dead person to life again.