

BRITISH FESTIVALS AND TRADITIONS

EASTER FACTS

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Easter, a Christian holiday, celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ which occurred on the third day after he was crucified on the cross. 40 days prior to Easter, Christians follow Lent, which is supposed to be 40 days of prayer, penance and fasting. The last week of this 40-day period is called Holy Week. During Holy Week, Holy Thursday commemorates when the Last Supper was held. Good Friday commemorates Jesus' crucifixion and death. Following Easter is a 50-day period called Eastertide which ends on Pentecost Sunday.

Interesting Easter Facts:

Easter is not fixed to a specific day. It usually falls between March 22nd and April 25th. It is supposed to fall on the first Sunday after the full moon following March 21st.

The man who betrayed Jesus Christ, which led to his crucifixion was Judas Iscariot.

Decorating Easter eggs was traditionally a symbol of the empty tomb. This tradition is called Pysanka. Christians believe that Easter eggs symbolize new life and resurrection.

Eggs were a symbol of life to Ancient Egyptians, Persians, Romans and Greeks. The custom of giving eggs at Easter originated with them.

The White House holds an annual Easter egg hunt on the front lawn. This tradition began in 1878 with President Rutherford B. Hayes.

In 1981 the White House began to use wooden Easter eggs so they could be kept as keepsakes.

Easter is the oldest Christian holiday.

Approximately 90 million chocolate bunnies are sold at Easter.

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The biggest chocolate bunny was created by an artist in South Africa in 2010. It weighed 3 tons and stood at 12 feet.

One of the biggest Easter egg weighed 7,200 kg and was 10.39 meters tall. It was on display in an Italian mall in 2011.

Lilies are a flower often associated with Easter (Easter Lilies). The petals face downward, which is in honour of Jesus.

Wearing new clothing on Easter is said to bring good luck for the coming year.

Some European countries follow a tradition of burning Easter fires, which represent fertility.

Members of the Greek Orthodox faith often paint their Easter eggs red, which symbolizes Jesus' blood and his victory over death. The colour red is symbolic of the renewal of life, and as such, Jesus' resurrection.

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