

# Easter Traditions and Symbolism

*Learning objective: To understand the religious significance and cultural traditions of Easter within the Christian faith.*

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure you provide full sentences for your answers.

Easter is a significant festival in the Christian calendar, marking the culmination of Holy Week. It commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which Christians believe occurred three days after his crucifixion. For many, this period is preceded by Lent, a forty-day season of reflection, fasting, and prayer. During this time, people often prepare themselves for the solemnity of Good Friday, the day remembering the crucifixion, before celebrating the joy of Easter Sunday.

Beyond the religious observance, Easter is rich in symbolism representing new life. The egg, for instance, has become a traditional emblem of birth and renewal. In many homes, families share chocolate eggs, sometimes spending upwards of £10 on treats for loved ones. Spring flowers like daffodils and lilies also feature prominently, mirroring the themes of growth and awakening after winter. While some traditions are purely celebratory, the core of Easter remains a time for communities to gather, reflect, and share hope. Ellie the elephant often explains that understanding these historical and cultural roots helps us appreciate why different communities mark the season with such vibrant displays and heartfelt ceremonies.

*Word bank: Resurrection · symbolism · observance · tradition · lent · solemn · commemorate*

**1. Identify two specific religious events within Holy Week that are mentioned in the text. (2 marks)**

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**2. According to the passage, what is the traditional symbolic meaning behind the Easter egg? (2 marks)**

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**3. Why might the season of Lent be considered a time of preparation rather than a time of celebration? (3 marks)**

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**4. Explain why the author connects spring flowers, such as daffodils, to the themes of Easter. (3 marks)**

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**5. Do you think the commercial side of Easter, such as buying expensive chocolate gifts, distracts from the religious meaning of the festival? Justify your answer. (4 marks)**

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**Draw:** Draw a scene that represents the concept of 'new life' and 'spring' using symbols mentioned in the text, such as eggs or seasonal flowers.



*Extension challenge: Compare and contrast how Easter is celebrated in a religious context versus how it is celebrated as a secular family event. What might happen if all religious symbolism were removed from the festival? Write a short paragraph justifying your opinion on whether traditions should evolve over time.*