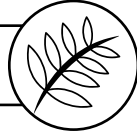


Palm Sunday Processions



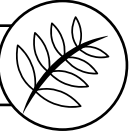
On Palm Sunday, many Christians carry palm branches and walk through their community. Some fold palm leaves into crosses and carry them with them.



Credit: Photo Central / Alamy Stock Photo



Palm Sunday Processions



Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, where followers laid palm branches before him and welcomed him like a celebrity; many people at the time were filled with joy and hope. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey - a contrast to a king's mighty horse, symbolising peace and humility; many Christians believe Jesus fulfilled ancient prophecies by arriving in this way, proving to them that he was the Messiah.

The Palm Sunday procession symbolises the welcoming of Jesus into Christians' lives and prepares the community for Holy Week, leading up to Easter. It brings believers together through a shared celebration and connection to Jesus.

'Rejoice, people of Jerusalem...Your king is coming to you... He is gentle and riding on a donkey.'

Based on Zechariah 9:9

A

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Holy Communion



During Easter, many Christians take Holy Communion to remember Jesus' Last Supper.



B

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Holy Communion



Holy communion reflects Jesus' sacrifice, symbolised by bread and wine to represent his body (bread) and blood (wine).

During the Last Supper, on the night before his crucifixion, Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples, knowing that it represented his sacrifice and upcoming death. Many Christians will take Holy Communion (also called Eucharist) every week but it is very popular during Holy Week as it mirrors the time of the original event.

Holy Communion can help Christians feel connected to God because they feel like they are eating and drinking the bread and wine Jesus provided and are united with him. It can also remind them of the sacrifice Jesus made for humanity when he died. It is often a shared, special experience, bringing members of the Christian community together. Many see the act of sharing bread and wine as an invitation to a personal connection with Jesus.

A

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Good Friday Processions (Stations of the Cross)



Many Christians join processions on Good Friday to remember Jesus' journey with the cross.



Credit: Mikal Ludlow / Alamy Stock Photo



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Good Friday Processions (Stations of the Cross)



Good Friday processions reenact Jesus' path carrying the cross. It often involves participants stopping at each place of Jesus's journey with the cross, or Station of the Cross, to pray and meditate on the events of Jesus' suffering and sacrifice. This practice can be a form of pilgrimage that encourages reflection on the sacrifices of Jesus. Many participants reflect on their own journeys and struggles and find strength in Jesus.

It consists of 14 stations, each representing a specific event from Jesus' last day. Churches may mark these stations with images or statues around their grounds or inside the building, allowing people to move from one station to the next. Some people go on a walk, often uphill and reflect on his journey, some carrying a wooden cross to experience the weight and struggle themselves. Often, church groups will journey to a nearby outdoor area with a cross, and share prayers and songs at their destination.

This shared experience can bring the community closer and allows individuals to physically partake in the steps of Jesus' sacrifice.

A

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Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)



The Easter Vigil is a special church service held on the evening before Easter Sunday where the Paschal candle is often lit.



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Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)



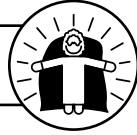
Holy Saturday is a day of quiet reflection as Jesus lay in the tomb. The Easter Vigil is an evening service marking the transition from darkness into light, symbolising Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. It begins with the church in darkness, then a single candle, the Paschal candle, is lit by the priest and shared among the congregants, spreading the light. This act represents Jesus bringing light to darkness, sin, and death. It's a powerful communal celebration of rebirth and renewal.



A

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Easter Sunday



On Easter Sunday, many Christians attend church services that include songs of praise and messages of hope and resurrection. Many churches also hold community breakfasts and continue the celebration with Easter egg hunts for children.



Credit: Ian Lamond / Alamy Stock Photo



B

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Easter Sunday



Easter Sunday marks the resurrection of Jesus, an event that many Christians believe signifies triumph over death and the promise of eternal life with God in heaven. This day is filled with communal gatherings, such as sunrise services, often held outdoors to capture the fresh dawn to symbolise new beginnings.

Church services include readings from the Gospels that recount the story of the empty tomb, emphasising Jesus' victory over death, with participants often sharing greetings of "He is risen." to share their faith in Jesus's resurrection and God's power to overcome death.

During Easter Sunday services, the church is filled with flowers and special music, creating a festive atmosphere that reflects joy and renewal. Celebrations often continue with activities like decorating eggs and Easter egg hunts, which are not only fun for children but are also a reminders for finding new life and hope, like when Jesus' friends discovered the empty tomb.