

Key end points for this Christianity unit on Easter:

- Lent is a time when Christians prepare for Easter.
- On Palm Sunday, Christians remember the entry of Jesus in Jerusalem riding on a donkey.
- Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples during The Last Supper.
- Christians believe that Jesus died on a cross.
- Jesus' resurrection is celebrated at Easter.

This unit focuses on Easter, one of the most important religious periods for Christians. Easter commemorates Jesus' final days, his crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension to Heaven, according to Christian belief. Children will have previously studied Easter and its symbols in Year 1, and the events of Holy Week will have been revisited in KS1 and lower KS2. They will already be familiar with key events, including Jesus' resurrection, ascension, and the moral teachings left behind for Christians. Prior learning in Year 3's Jesus as an Inspiration and Year 4's Trinity units have established a foundation for understanding Jesus' significance in Christianity.

This unit provides exploration of the Christian beliefs around Jesus' final days, focusing on the lasting impact of his sacrifice. Children will examine how Easter is not just a celebration for Christians, but also a time for reflection on rebirth, hope, and sacrifice.

Teachers may revisit Year 1's Easter symbols to ensure continuity in learning. Additionally, children may have personal experiences of Easter, influenced by different Christian traditions worldwide.

Key terms in this unit include:

- Resurrection – Jesus rising from the dead.
- Ascension – Jesus returning to Heaven.
- Palm Sunday – The day Jesus entered Jerusalem.
- Lent – The 40-day period leading up to Easter.

As children progress through the RE curriculum, they will participate in personal reflections. Teachers should foster a respectful environment where children feel comfortable recognising differences and sharing viewpoints. Children will connect Christian ideas to their own experiences, and will have an opportunity to respond with their own thoughts.

For example, they will reflect on:

- Have they ever given up something for a reason? (Link to Lent).
- How does humility connect to kindness?

Teachers should model reflective discussions, supporting children in expressing their views clearly. Suggested sentence starters include:

- "Personally, I feel that ___ is important because..."
- "In my experience..."

Lesson Series

Lesson 1: This lesson introduces Easter as the most significant Christian celebration, focusing on the resurrection of Jesus and its meaning for believers. Pupils explore the idea of eternal life and salvation, using John 3:17 to understand how Christians view Easter as a time of hope, love, and renewal.

Lesson 2: Children learn about Lent as a 40-day period of reflection, inspired by Jesus' time in the wilderness. The lesson explores practices such as prayer, fasting, and giving, helping pupils understand how Christians prepare spiritually for Easter. The concept of temptation is handled with sensitivity, offering optional approaches depending on context.

Lesson 3: The Last Supper and Holy Communion; Children will revisit Jesus' Last Supper, where he shared bread and wine and washed his disciples' feet, teaching love and service. This lesson explores how this moment translates into Holy Communion, a Christian act of worship. Instead of re-enacting it, children will learn its meaning, who participates, and how it is observed through discussions and symbolic representations.

Lesson 4: The Death of Jesus and the Cross; Children will explore the symbolism of the cross as a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice. Many denominations view this as the first of Easter's final three days. Teachers are encouraged to consider how to teach the important elements around Jesus' death in an age-appropriate way. Details of crucifixion may not be necessary for a primary RE lesson. Please do seek advice from senior leaders in school before teaching this content.

Lesson 5: Children will examine how Jesus' resurrection and ascension impact Christian beliefs today. Easter is seen as a time of hope, rebirth, and renewal. This lesson encourages reflection, linking the resurrection to new beginnings and sacrifice. As Easter Sunday is the most significant Christian celebration, children should gain an understanding of its practices and traditions.

Lesson 6: Assessment Children will use their knowledge organiser to demonstrate their understanding of Easter, through writing or another suitable method. They may explain:

- Lent is a time of preparation for Easter.
- Palm Sunday remembers Jesus arriving on a donkey.
- At the Last Supper, Jesus shared bread and wine.
- Christians believe Jesus died on a cross.
- Easter Sunday celebrates Jesus' resurrection and the hope it brings.

The key concepts: resurrection, ascension, fast, sacrifice, Holy communion, humility

Key terms: Saviour, temptation, humility