

EASTERTIDE

In the Church, we celebrate the Easter season (also known as "Eastertide") for 50 days. It reaches the high point of the feast of Pentecost, where Scripture (Acts 2:1-31) tells us that the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles.

Divine Mercy Sunday and the **Ascension**, a holy day of obligation when we must try to go to Mass, take place during this Eastertide.

During Lent, we think about the wrong things we do and how to put them right, and the terrible way Jesus died; we talk about "sacrifice" and "sin" but then we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. How happy we all are; we come to church, sing hymns and talk about "glory" and "praise", we eat a lovely meal and of course, many delicious chocolate Easter eggs!



But what have eggs to do with Easter?

Indeed, why do we have an Easter bunny and why do we usually eat lamb as our Easter meal?

Easter customs

Eggs are a symbol of new life and rebirth reminding us that through the Resurrection of Jesus we are brought to new life in Him. The hard shell of the egg also symbolises the sealed tomb of Christ and cracking it open is like opening the tomb when he rose from the dead.

Fun fact

In the medieval period, eating eggs was forbidden during Lent so on Easter Sunday, tucking into an egg was a real treat!! Today, we mostly have chocolate eggs at Easter.

The Easter Bunny



Is another symbol that represents fertility (life) and wealth and became the Easter symbol in Germany in the 16th century. Since then, the tradition has spread widely across Catholic countries. Some claim that the English word "**Easter**" is derived from "**Eostre**", a pagan goddess of spring and abundance.

Another Christian-Catholic tradition is that Saint Ambrosius used the hare as a symbol of resurrection, because its coat changes colour as the seasons change. This ability to change according to the rhythms of nature was linked to the idea of rebirth, and therefore to the Resurrection.

Lamb

While there is no Easter egg or bunny in the Bible, there is most definitely a Lamb. In John 1:29, John the Baptist sees Jesus and exclaims, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." These words are still said at the consecration when the priest holds up the Body of Christ and invites us to look at Jesus who is in our midst.



Pentecost

This was first a Jewish feast to celebrate the first fruits of the harvest and later also to remember the Law which God had given to Moses on Mount Sinai. So, the disciples came together to celebrate and, as we hear in the Acts of Apostles (Acts 2:1-11), they are gathered in the upper room when they heard a loud noise which is followed by fire which breaks into tongues which rest on the heads of each of them. Mother Mary was there with them too. This fire was the presence of the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised that God the Father would send. The Holy Spirit made them strong and they went out speaking about Jesus and were understood by everyone in their different languages. And the church grew and grew right up to this very day.



For your lenten offering to CAFOD we raised a fantastic sum of

£150

Many poor people will benefit
from your generosity!



Were you away when we collected the
tubes?

If you still have yours you can bring it along
to Mass and hand it in as we still have a few

Easter Bunnies and eggs left.

It doesn't matter if it's not full with 20ps!

Colouring in picture



First Holy Communion



This year eight children took their First Holy Communion.

It was a happy and joyous occasion.

They began in January and with their parents they learnt about Jesus, the Mass, Reconciliation (saying sorry), the correct way to take Communion (and what it means) and how to behave in Church.

Some of them will be going to **Arundel Cathedral** on June 8th to celebrate **Corpus Christi** with the Bishop.

This is the time when a **Carpet of Flowers** is laid in the main aisle and people flock to see the many floral decorations.

After communion the children lead a procession to the **Castle** for a short benediction and then return walking with the Bishop over the carpet. A tradition going back over 140 yrs.



Some children like to pick up some of the petals from the carpet after Mass to wear for a picture with the Bishop and take away with them as a keepsake. You can read all about this in the **youth section** of our **Church Website**.