

Easter: Catholic and Orthodox Traditions



Easter is a very important holiday for Christians. It celebrates the day when Jesus came back to life. But not all Christians celebrate Easter on the same day and the traditions can be a little different too.

When is Easter?

Catholic and Protestant Christians (like people in the UK, Spain or Germany) usually celebrate Easter in March or April.

Orthodox Christians (like people in Russia, Greece or Serbia) often celebrate Easter one or two weeks later.

Why? They use different calendars. Catholics use the Gregorian calendar, and Orthodox Christians use the Julian calendar. That's why the dates are different!

How is Easter celebrated?

In many countries, Easter is a happy time with family, church, and food. But the traditions can change from place to place.



In the UK

People go to church on Easter Sunday. Children get chocolate eggs and play Easter egg hunts – they look for eggs hidden in the garden or house!

In Russia

People say “Христос воскрес!” (Christ is risen!) and answer “Воистину воскрес!” (Truly, He is risen!). Families go to church at night, light candles and eat a special Easter bread called kulich and painted eggs.





In Greece



Orthodox Easter is a big celebration. At midnight people light candles and say, "Christos Anesti!" (Christ is risen!). They eat lamb, red eggs and sweet bread called tsoureki.

In Germany



Children make Easter crafts and the Easter Bunny brings chocolate eggs. People decorate their homes with colourful Easter trees (branches with hanging eggs).



In Italy



Families enjoy a big meal together and eat a dove-shaped cake called Colomba. In some cities there are Easter parades and fireworks!

Easter – True or False?

1. Catholic and Orthodox Christians always celebrate Easter on the same day. **T**
F
2. Orthodox Christians often celebrate Easter later than Catholics. **T** **F**
3. In the UK, children play Easter egg hunts. **T** **F**
4. In Russia, people eat a cake called Colomba on Easter. **T** **F**
5. Greek people say "Christos Anesti!" at Easter. **T** **F**
6. In Germany, people decorate Easter trees with hanging eggs. **T** **F**
7. In Italy, families eat a dove-shaped cake called kulich. **T** **F**
8. Easter is a sad and quiet holiday in all countries. **T** **F**
9. In many countries, people go to church on Easter. **T** **F**
10. The Easter Bunny is popular in Orthodox traditions. **T** **F**

Read the phrases:

1.  People go to church on Easter Sunday.
2.  People eat a special Easter bread called kulich and painted eggs.
3.  They eat lamb, red eggs, and sweet bread.
4.  Children make Easter crafts and the Easter Bunny brings chocolate eggs.
5.  In some cities there are Easter parades and fireworks!