# Easter

Easter is the most important Christian festival. It celebrates Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead, three days after he was executed by crucifixion.

## Easter

**Find the date for Easter 2013 in the multifaith calendar**

Easter Sunday is the culmination of **Holy Week**.

Easter commemorates the resurrection of **Jesus Christ**. It is the most important Christian festival, and the one celebrated with the greatest joy.

The date of Easter changes each year, and several other Christian festivals fix their dates by reference to Easter.

Churches are filled with flowers, and there are special hymns and songs. But not all Easter customs are Christian; some, such as the Easter Bunny, are pagan in origin.


Semana Santa Easter festival in Seville, Spain ©

## The Easter story is at the heart of Christianity

On **Good Friday**, Jesus Christ was executed by **crucifixion**. His body was taken down from the cross, and buried in a cave.

The tomb was guarded and an enormous stone was put over the entrance, so that no-one could steal the body.

On the following Sunday, some women visited the grave and found that the stone had been moved, and that the tomb was empty.

Jesus himself was seen that day, and for days afterwards by many people. His followers realised that God had raised Jesus from the dead.