



Exploring Easter as a story of sadness and joy

RE
Year 3
Spring Term

Overview

Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the most important Christian festival, and the one celebrated with the greatest joy. On Good Friday, Jesus Christ was executed by crucifixion. His body was taken down from the cross, and buried in a cave which caused great sadness to his followers. The tomb was guarded and a 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. In this unit, pupils will explore the Easter story from the angle of the feelings evoked by the different events throughout Holy Week. They will discover how the services held in Churches during Holy Week reflect the sadness and joy and develop their understanding of the concept of salvation.



Questions I wonder about Easter:

Enquiry skills and concepts:

In this unit, the pupils will:

- **Investigate** - ask relevant questions; know how to use different types of sources as a way of gathering information; know what may constitute evidence for understanding religions.
- **Empathise** - consider the thoughts, feelings, experiences, attitudes, beliefs and values of others; develop the power of imagination to identify feelings such as love, wonder, forgiveness and sorrow; see the world through the eyes of others
- **Interpret** - draw meaning from artefacts, music, works of art, poetry and symbolism; suggest meanings of religious texts
- **Reflect** - reflect on feelings, relationships, experience, ultimate questions, beliefs and practices; use stillness, mental and physical, to think with clarity and care about significant events, emotions and atmospheres

Topic Vocabulary

crucify: *put someone to death by nailing them to a cross*

Easter: *the most important and oldest festival of the Christian Church, celebrating the resurrection of Christ*

Gethsemane: *a garden on the Mount of Olives along the eastern part of Jerusalem, where Jesus is said to have prayed on the night of his arrest*

Good Friday: *the Friday before Easter Sunday, the day on which Jesus crucified*

joy: *a feeling of great pleasure and happiness*

Palm Sunday: *the day Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem riding a donkey and people waving palm branches.*

resurrection: *rising from the deads*

Sadness: *the condition of being unhappy*

Religious vocabulary

church: *a building used for Christian worship*

Jesus: *the Son of God*

salvation: *preservation or deliverance from harm, ruin, or loss*