

THE SEASON OF EASTER

Fact File

Colour: Gold on Easter Day because gold is the most precious colour and Easter Day is the Sunday of Sundays! The church is dressed in white throughout the rest of the season, depicting the resurrection as a time of new creation.

Duration: 7 weeks – these are the Great 50 days of the Resurrection before the Feast of Pentecost, which marks the end of Jesus' ministry among us and the birth of the Church of Christ through the Holy Spirit.



Piero della Francesca, The Resurrection of Christ

Special features: We say and sing “Alleluia” repeatedly - it means, “praise the Lord”. The Easter Candle is kept alight during the services. This is a sign of the Risen Christ who is present in his Church. Some churches also create an Easter Garden, to remind us of the people and place surrounding the empty tomb.

Main Characters: The women who found the empty tomb, especially Mary Magdalene, as well as Peter and the beloved disciple. The twin, Thomas, is also significant, needing to see the wounds of the risen Christ before believing.

Mood: Celebratory! The Church is joyful and feasts as it comes out of the Lenten fast. We share the wonder of the Resurrection with others.

Festivals and Holy Days in Eastertide: Rogation Days are kept, from the Latin, *rogare*, meaning ‘to ask.’ These are days of prayer, “for God’s blessing on the fruits of the earth and human labour.” Ascension Day marks the departure of Christ into the kingdom of heaven. It prepares us for Pentecost, when Christ’s Church of today is renewed by the Holy Spirit.

A prayer for Easter

Risen Lord Jesus,
as Mary Magdalene met you in the garden
on the morning of your resurrection,
so may we meet you today and every day:
speak to us as you spoke to her;
reveal yourself as the living Lord;
renew our hope and kindle our joy;
and send us to share the good news with others. Amen.