



The First Day of Lent is Ash Wednesday, Feb 17

Lent is a Christian annual period that starts on Ash Wednesday lasting for 40 days (not including Sundays) representing the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. This 40-day period for Christians is a time to reflect, fast, and give penance in preparation for the resurrection of Christ Easter Sunday.

Palm Sunday is Sunday, March 28

Palm Sunday commemorates the entrance of Christ into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1–9), when palm branches were placed in his path, before his arrest on Holy Thursday and his crucifixion on Good Friday. It thus marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of Lent.

Maundy Thursday is Thursday, April 1

What Does Maundy Thursday Mean?

Christ's "mandate" is commemorated on Maundy Thursday---"maundy" being a shortened form of man datum (Latin), which means "command." It was on the Thursday of Christ's final week before being crucified and resurrected that He said this commandment to His disciples. Jesus and his disciples had just shared what was known as the Last Supper and he was washing their feet when he stated:

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another" (John 13:34).

Good Friday is Friday, April 2

What is Good Friday?

For Christians, Good Friday is a crucial day of the year because it celebrates what we believe to be the most momentous weekend in the history of the world. Ever since Jesus died and was raised, Christians have proclaimed the cross and resurrection of Jesus to be the decisive turning point for all creation. Paul considered it to be "of first importance" that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and was raised to life on the third day, all in accordance with what God had promised all along in the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3).

On Good Friday we remember the day Jesus willingly suffered and died by crucifixion as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins (1 John 1:10). It is followed by Easter, the glorious celebration of the day Jesus was raised from the dead, heralding his victory over sin and death and pointing ahead to a future resurrection for all who are united to him by faith (Romans 6:5).

Why "Good" Friday?

Still, why call the day of Jesus' death "Good Friday" instead of "Bad Friday" or something similar? Some Christian traditions do take this approach: in German, for example, the day is called Karfreitag, or "Sorrowful Friday." In English, in fact, the origin of the term "Good" some believe it developed from an older name, "God's Friday." Regardless of the origin, the name Good Friday is entirely appropriate because the suffering and death of Jesus, as terrible as it was, marked the dramatic culmination of God's plan to save his people from their sins.

Easter is Sunday, April 4

Easter, also known as Resurrection Sunday, is a religious holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and is celebrated by Christians throughout the world.

History of Easter

The history of Easter 2021 is founded in the New Testament of the Bible that states that the resurrection of Jesus, which Easter celebrates, is a foundation of the Christian faith. The resurrection established Jesus as the powerful Son of God and is cited as proof that God will judge the world in righteousness.

As opposed to one single day of observance, Easter is an entire season of the Christian calendar commencing with Lent (a 40-day period) and ending with Easter Sunday. Easter 2021 is related to the Passover and Exodus from Egypt recorded in the Old Testament through the Last Supper, sufferings and crucifixion of Jesus that preceded the resurrection. According to the New Testament, Jesus gave the Passover meal a new meaning, as in the Last Supper he prepared himself and his disciples for his death through crucifixion.

Easter joins two important events with the first being deeply sad and dramatic while the other is just the opposite. The first one is the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ after which his body was placed in the tomb. Three days later he resurrected from death bringing happiness and joy. Resurrection is a triumph of life and even more astonishing than the miracle of his birth.