

The Easter Story

Palm Leaves: Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to celebrate Passover. As he arrived people covered the path with palm leaves and shouted 'Hosanna' and 'Jesus is the King'.

Priests: Some of the priests were very jealous of Jesus. They did not like how liked he was by ordinary people. One of Jesus' disciples, called Judas, went to the priests and said he would betray Jesus for silver.

Last Supper: Jesus sat for a meal with his 12 disciples where he was sad and *told them he would be going away to be with his Father in heaven*. The disciples said they would not let Jesus come to any harm but Jesus said he knew one would betray him for money. Judas stood up and left.

Bread and Wine: Jesus told his disciples *that he would be arrested and nailed to a cross* and explained that some people in Jerusalem did not like him. To enable them to remember him, Jesus broke some bread and said 'This is my body. Take it and eat it and remember me'. Next he took his cup of wine told them it was his blood and to drink it to remember him.

Garden of Gethsemane: Jesus and his disciples went to the garden of Gethsemane. Jesus was very sad and he asked Peter and Paul to watch over him whilst he prayed. *Jesus asked his Father to take away his suffering but he also prayed, 'not my will, however, but your will be done' and Jesus was strengthened*. Jesus' friends were very tired and had fallen asleep by the time Judas arrived with men carrying swords who had been sent to arrest Jesus by the priests.

Judas: Judas showed the soldiers who Jesus was by kissing him on the cheek. They took Jesus away, the disciples were afraid and ran away.

Cock crows: When Jesus had told his disciples that one of them would betray him, Peter said that he did not believe this was possible. Jesus said, 'before the cock crows at dawn you will have disowned me three times'. After being arrested Jesus questioned and Peter was watching. People asked Peter if he was a friend of Jesus, and Peter denied knowing him three times. Suddenly the cock crowed and Peter cried as he remembered what Jesus had said to him.

Not Guilty: As Jesus had not actually done anything wrong the Jewish leaders were finding it hard to find him guilty of anything. They asked if he was the Son of God and Jesus replied 'I am'. The leaders decided this made him guilty of insulting God and they convinced the crowd to request a murderer called Barabbas be set free instead of Jesus. Pontius Pilate (the Roman Governor) asked what he should do with Jesus and the crowd shouted 'Crucify him'.

Hand Washing: Pilate washed his hands to display he was killing an innocent man and did not want to be responsible. Pilate let Barabbas go free.

The Cross: The soldiers put a crown of thorns on Jesus' head and laid a heavy wooden cross on his back. Jesus had to carry his own cross out of the city gates and up a hill nearby. At the top of the hill nails were put through Jesus' hands and feet to nail him to the cross. Jesus was in between robbers and calmed one of the robbers who was scared.

Words on the Cross: Jesus' mother watched Jesus on the cross. People in the crowd shouted at Jesus, '*You saved other people, why don't you save yourself now?*'. At noon it was dark for several hours. Jesus cried out '*My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*' Then Jesus died and the earth shook.

The Resurrection: Jesus' body was laid in a tomb by his friends which was sealed with a large stone. Two days later, Mary Magdalene (Jesus' friend) went to the tomb and found that the stone was moved and Jesus' body had gone. A man spoke to Mary and asked her why she was crying and she explained that her Lord was gone. She did not realise that this man was Jesus risen from the dead. Mary thought he was the gardener and asked if he knew where Jesus body had gone. He replied 'Mary it is I'.

Good News: Mary was so happy. Jesus explained that he would *soon be with his Father in heaven* and asked Mary to tell his friends. At first they did not believe Mary but then Jesus appeared to the disciples many times.

The Ascension: Sometime later, Jesus told the disciples that when he left them, they would receive the power of the Holy Spirit and that they were to spread the Word of God. Two angels appeared to take Jesus to heaven, they told the disciples not to be sad and that *Jesus would one day return*.