

Lent

Lent is an important time of reflection for many Christians. It lasts for 40 days, excluding Sundays. According to the Bible, this represents the length of time that Jesus spent in the desert fasting and being tempted by the devil. In the past, many Christians would **fast** throughout Lent to reflect on Jesus' life and they would exclude rich foods from their diet, such as meat, eggs and butter.

Nowadays, many Christians may choose to give up a luxury item like chocolate instead.

Lent is always in spring but the exact date varies each year. Traditionally, the day before Lent was a time for feasting and pancakes would often be served to use up food.



Ash Wednesday

For many Christians, Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and it is a time for forgiveness. Many Christians celebrate this day by attending a church service where ashes are blessed and then a cross-shaped mark is applied to worshippers' foreheads.



Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week, which is the last week of Lent. According to the Bible, this is when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The crowd welcomed him by waving palm leaves and laying their cloaks on the path where he rode. Some churches give out small crosses made from palm leaves to remember this day.

Maundy Thursday

On Maundy Thursday, Christians remember when Jesus and his disciples shared their final meal together, known as the Last Supper. During this meal, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. Christians believe that Jesus was teaching his friends how to respect and love one another. They shared bread and wine and Jesus told his disciples to do this to remember him after his death. Later that night, Jesus was betrayed by one of his disciples, Judas.

Good Friday

On Good Friday, Christians believe that Jesus died and gave up his life for others. Roman soldiers nailed him to a cross after he had carried it for a long distance. Some Christians avoid eating meat on this day.



Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday is considered to be the most important event in the Christian calendar. It is when Christians celebrate the **resurrection** of Jesus. The Bible says that Jesus' body was placed in a tomb after his death. This was guarded by soldiers and its entrance was covered by a heavy stone. When one of Jesus' followers visited the tomb, she found that the stone had been moved and his body had disappeared.

According to the Bible, Jesus was seen later that day and several times afterwards.

Easter Sunday marks the end of Lent and church services are held to celebrate the day. Christians consider Easter Sunday to be a joyful occasion because it represents the promise of eternal life in heaven. Traditionally, people would end their fasting and Easter eggs are often shared to symbolise new life.



Glossary

fasting: To avoid all or some kinds of food or drink.

resurrection: The act or fact of rising back to life

Questions

1. On which day do Christians celebrate Jesus arriving in Jerusalem on a donkey? Tick one.

- ☐ Ash Wednesday
- ☐ Palm Sunday
- ☐ Maundy Thursday
- ☐ Good Friday

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

- ☐ Ashes are blessed.
- ☐ Christians believe that Easter Sunday represents the promise of eternal life in heaven.
- ☐ Pancakes are often served the day before Lent.
- ☐ Jesus washed the feet of his disciples.

3. Look at the first paragraph. Find and copy one word which means 'tried to persuade someone to do something'.

4. Which season is Lent in?

5. Fill in the missing word.

For many Christians, Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and it is a time for _____.

6. Summarise what you have learnt about Lent in 30 words or fewer.

7. According to the Bible,... Why do you think that the author has used this phrase?

8. What item would you find it difficult to give up for 40 days? Why?

Answers

1. On which day do Christians celebrate Jesus arriving in Jerusalem on a donkey? Tick one.

- ☐ Ash Wednesday
- ☒ **Palm Sunday**
- ☐ Maundy Thursday
- ☐ Good Friday

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

- 2** Ashes are blessed.
- 4** Christians believe that Easter Sunday represents the promise of eternal life in heaven.
- 1** Pancakes are often served the day before Lent.
- 3** Jesus washed the feet of his disciples.

3. Look at the first paragraph. Find and copy one word which means 'tried to persuade someone to do something'.

tempted

4. Which season is Lent in?

Lent is always in spring.

5. Fill in the missing word.

For many Christians, Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and it is a time for **forgiveness**.

6. Summarise what you have learnt about Lent in 30 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Lent lasts for 40 days, excluding Sundays. Many Christians choose to fast or give up a luxury item to remember Jesus' time spent in the desert.

7. According to the Bible,... Why do you think that the author has used this phrase?

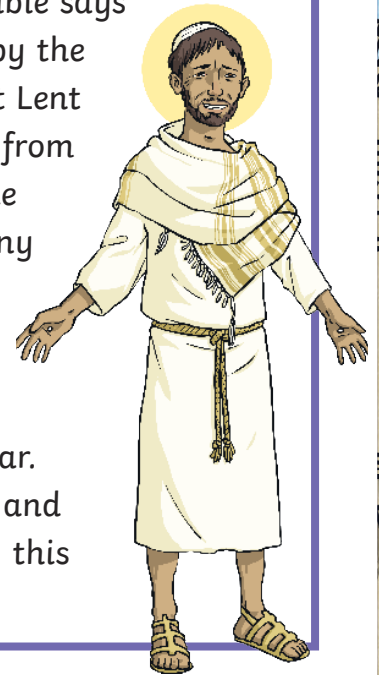
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the author has used this phrase because it is what Christians believe and the author has taken information from the holy book of Christianity, which is the Bible. However, other religions may not believe this.

8. What item would you find it difficult to give up for 40 days? Why?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I would find giving up biscuits difficult because they are my favourite treat and 40 days is a long time not to eat them for.

Lent

Lent is an important time for many Christians; it is a time of reflection that lasts for just over six weeks (40 days, excluding Sundays) and leads up to Easter. This represents the length of time that the Bible says that Jesus spent in the desert fasting and being tempted by the devil. In the past, many Christians would fast throughout Lent to reflect on Jesus' life and they would exclude rich foods from their diet, such as meat, eggs and butter. Nowadays, while some Christians may continue to follow this practice, many Christians may choose to give up a luxury item (such as chocolate) or an activity (such as spending time on social media).



Lent is always in spring but the exact date varies each year. Traditionally, the day before Lent was a time for feasting and pancakes would often be served to use up food. In the UK, this day is known as Shrove Tuesday.

Ash Wednesday

For many Christians, Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Ash Wednesday is a time for forgiveness; many Christians celebrate this day by attending a church service. Ashes are blessed and a cross-shaped mark is then applied to the forehead of each worshipper.



Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is celebrated one week before Easter Sunday and it is the beginning of Holy Week (the last week of Lent). According to the Bible, this is when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The crowd welcomed him by waving palm leaves and laying their cloaks on the path where he rode. In remembrance of this day, some churches give out small crosses made from palm leaves.

Maundy Thursday

On Maundy Thursday, Christians remember when Jesus and his disciples shared their final meal together, known as the Last Supper. During this meal, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, which was normally a job reserved for servants. Christians believe that this act was Jesus teaching his friends how to respect one another. As they dined together, they shared bread and wine and Jesus told his disciples to do this to remember him after his death. Later that night, Jesus was betrayed by one of his disciples, Judas.

Good Friday

On Good Friday, according to the Bible, Roman soldiers forced Jesus to carry a cross to Golgotha, where he was later crucified (nailed to the cross). Christians believe that Jesus sacrificed his life for others and their sins. Around the world, Good Friday is often seen as a solemn day; some Christians avoid eating meat and some churches avoid using the organ during the service.



Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday is considered to be the most important event in the Christian calendar; it is when Christians celebrate their belief that Jesus was resurrected (raised back to life after death). The Bible says that, after the death of Jesus, his body was placed in a tomb; this tomb was guarded by soldiers and its entrance was covered by a large, heavy stone. When one of Jesus' followers, Mary Magdalene, visited the tomb, she found that the stone had been moved and his body had disappeared. According to the Bible, Jesus was seen by Mary Magdalene later that day and he was seen on several other occasions by his disciples.

Easter Sunday marks the end of Lent and church services are held to celebrate the day. Christians consider Easter Sunday to be a joyful occasion because it represents the promise of eternal life in heaven. Traditionally, people would end their fasting and a large feast would be served. Easter eggs are often shared to symbolise new life and many people who are not Christian also choose to observe this tradition.



Questions

- What is considered to be the first day of Lent for many Christians? Tick one.
 - ☐ Shrove Tuesday
 - ☐ Ash Wednesday
 - ☐ Palm Sunday
 - ☐ Maundy Thursday
- Draw **four** lines and match each sub-heading to the corresponding sentence from that section.

Ash Wednesday

According to the Bible, Jesus was seen by Mary Magdalene later that day and he was seen on several other occasions by his disciples.

Palm Sunday

Later that night, Jesus was betrayed by one of his disciples, Judas.

Maundy Thursday

According to the Bible, this is when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem riding on a donkey.

Easter Sunday

Ashes are blessed and a cross-shaped mark is then applied to the forehead of each worshipper.

- Look at the section called **Good Friday**.
Find and copy one word which means the same as 'serious'.

- What did Jesus do during the Last Supper that was normally reserved for servants?

5. Fill in the missing word.

Christians consider Easter Sunday to be a joyful _____ because it represents the promise of eternal life in heaven.

6. How do you think Mary Magdelene felt when she visited the tomb? Why?

7. Traditionally, the day before Lent was a time for feasting and pancakes would often be served to use up food. Explain what impression the word **traditionally** gives the reader.

8. Predict what impact fasting may have on somebody.

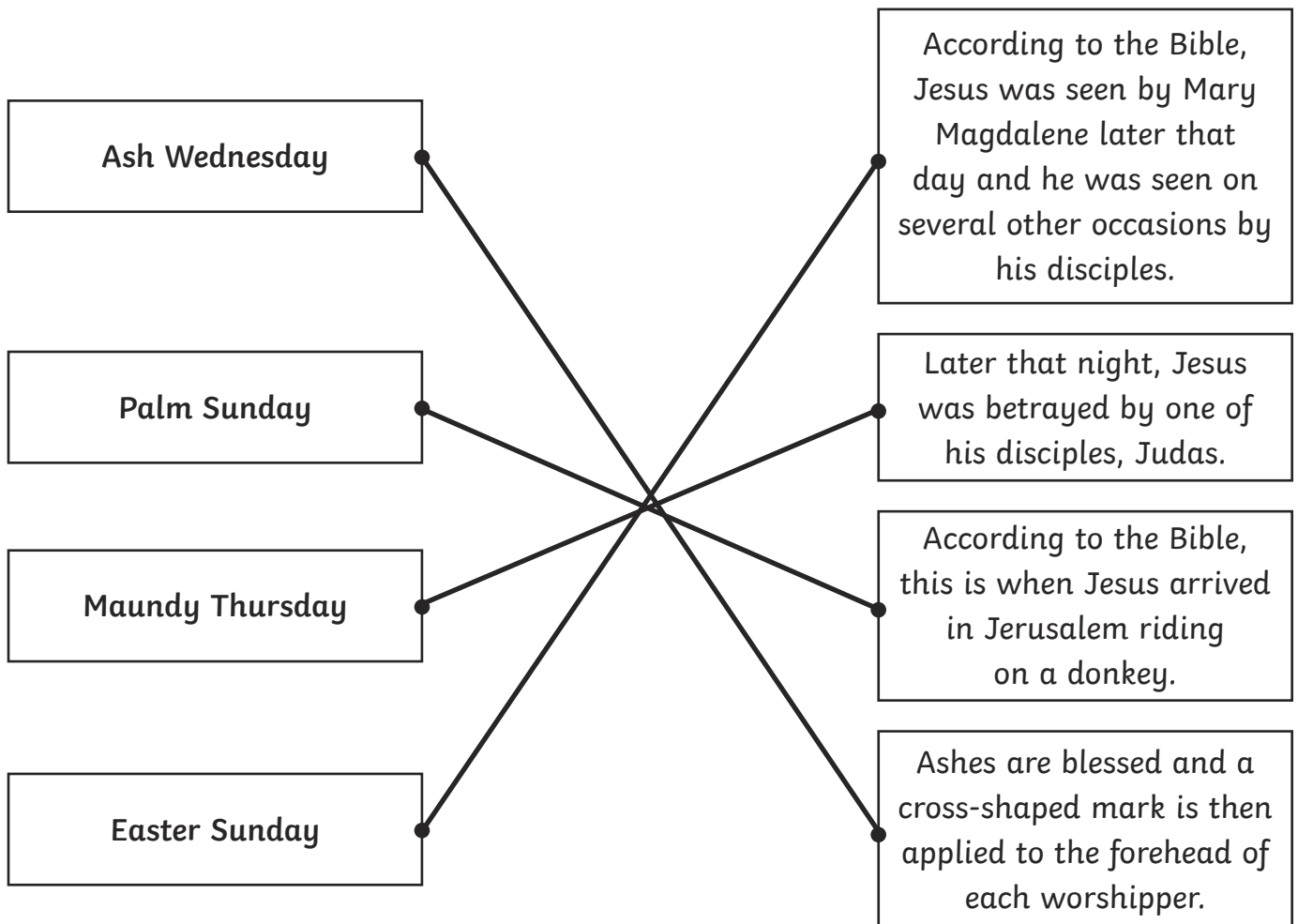
9. Compare how some Christians celebrate Good Friday with how they celebrate Easter Sunday.

Answers

1. What is considered to be the first day of Lent for many Christians? Tick one.

- ☐ Shrove Tuesday
- ☒ Ash Wednesday
- ☐ Palm Sunday
- ☐ Maundy Thursday

2. Draw **four** lines and match each sub-heading to the corresponding sentence from that section.



3. Look at the section called **Good Friday**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'serious'.

solemn

4. What did Jesus do during the Last Supper that was normally reserved for servants?

During the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, which was normally a job reserved for servants.

5. Fill in the missing word.

Christians consider Easter Sunday to be a joyful **occasion** because it represents the promise of eternal life in heaven.

6. How do you think Mary Magdelene felt when she visited the tomb? Why?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Mary Magdelene felt extremely shocked when she visited the tomb because the stone had been moved from the entrance and Jesus' body had disappeared.

7. Traditionally, the day before Lent was a time for feasting and pancakes would often be served to use up food. Explain what impression the word **traditionally** gives the reader.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The word 'traditionally' gives the reader the impression that this custom would normally have happened in the past.

8. Predict what impact fasting may have on somebody.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that fasting may make someone reflect on their actions more. If they are not eating as much food as they were before, it may make them feel physically tired and unable to do as many things as they might do normally.

9. Compare how some Christians celebrate Good Friday with how they celebrate Easter Sunday.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Good Friday is seen as a more solemn day and some Christians do not eat meat. Some churches also avoid using an organ during the service. However, Easter Sunday is seen as a joyful celebration as Christians believe that Jesus was resurrected. Traditionally, a large feast was served and Easter eggs are often shared.

Lent

Lent is a significant period for many Christians; it is a time of self-reflection and repentance that lasts for just over six weeks (40 days, excluding Sundays) and leads up to Easter. This represents the length of time that the Bible states that Jesus spent in the desert fasting and enduring temptations from Satan. In the past, many Christians would fast throughout Lent to reflect on Jesus' life and they would exclude rich foods from their diet, such as meat, fish, eggs and butter. Nowadays, while some Christians may continue to follow this practice, many Christians may choose to give up a luxury item (such as chocolate) or an activity (such as spending time on social media).

Traditionally, the day before Lent is a time for feasting and pancakes would often be served to use up any indulgent foods. In the UK, this day is known as Shrove Tuesday; the word 'shrove' is derived from the word 'shrive' which means to forgive.

Lent is always in spring but the exact date varies each year. Western and Eastern Churches' calendars are slightly different; therefore, different denominations of Christianity may celebrate Easter on different dates.

Ash Wednesday

In most churches, Lent commences on Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is a time for forgiveness; many Christians celebrate this day by attending a church service. Ashes are blessed and a cross-shaped mark is then applied to the forehead of each worshipper.



Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is celebrated one week before Easter Sunday and it marks the beginning of Holy Week (the last week of Lent). According to the Bible, this is when Jesus, whom Christians believe to be the son of God, entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The crowd welcomed his arrival by waving palm leaves and laying their cloaks on the path where he rode. In remembrance of this day, some churches give out small crosses made from palm leaves. In many Roman Catholic churches, the leftover palm leaves are subsequently burnt to obtain ashes; these are used during the following year's Ash Wednesday service.

Maundy Thursday

On Maundy Thursday, Christians commemorate when Jesus and his disciples shared their final meal together - the Last Supper. During this meal, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, which was normally a job reserved for servants. Christians believe that this act was Jesus teaching his friends humility. As they dined together, they shared bread and wine and Jesus instructed his disciples to do this to remember him after his death. Later that night, Jesus was betrayed by one of his disciples, Judas. In churches across the world, there are Eucharist services where the congregation share bread and wine to remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples.

Good Friday

On Good Friday, according to the Bible, Roman soldiers forced Jesus to carry a cross to Golgotha, where he was later crucified (nailed to the cross). Christians believe that Jesus sacrificed his life for others and atoned people's sins. Around the world, Good Friday is often seen as a solemn day and Christians celebrate this differently: some people avoid eating meat and some churches will avoid using the organ during the service.

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday is considered to be the most important event in the Christian calendar; it is when Christians celebrate their belief that Jesus was resurrected (raised back to life after death). The Bible says that, after Jesus was crucified, his body was placed in a tomb that was guarded by soldiers and its entrance was covered by a large, heavy stone. When one of Jesus' followers, Mary Magdalene, visited the tomb, she found that the stone had been moved and his body had disappeared. According to the Bible, Jesus was seen by Mary Magdalene later that day and he was seen on several occasions for 40 days afterwards by his disciples.

Easter Sunday signifies the end of Lent and church services are held to celebrate the day. Christians consider Easter Sunday to be a joyful occasion because it represents the promise of eternal life in heaven. Traditionally, people would end their fasting and a large feast of meat, eggs and cheeses would be served. Easter eggs are often gifted to symbolise the concept of new life and, irrespective of religion, many people who are not Christian also choose to observe this tradition.



Questions

1. Look at the first paragraph. Which word means the same as 'regret' or 'remorse'? Tick one.

- ☐ repentance
- ☐ temptation
- ☐ luxury
- ☐ derived

2. Draw **four** lines and match each event with the corresponding description.

Shrove Tuesday

This is when Christians believe that Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and shared bread and wine with them.

Maundy Thursday

It is believed by Christians that this day represents the promise of eternal life in heaven.

Good Friday

Traditionally, any indulgent foods would be used up on this day.

Easter Sunday

Christians view this as a solemn day and some churches avoid using the organ during services.

3. Look at the section called **Good Friday**. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'gave up' or 'surrendered'.

4. In many Roman Catholic churches, what happens to the leftover palm leaves after the Palm Sunday service?

5. Fill in the missing word.

In _____ of this day, some churches give out small crosses made from palm leaves.

6. Why do you think that eggs are a good symbol of new life?

7. Compare Lent with another religious festival when people may choose to fast.

8. What do you think the impact on the church is when the organ is not played during a Good Friday service? Explain your answer.

9. ...pancakes would often be served to use up any indulgent foods.

What impression does the word 'indulgent' give the reader about the food?

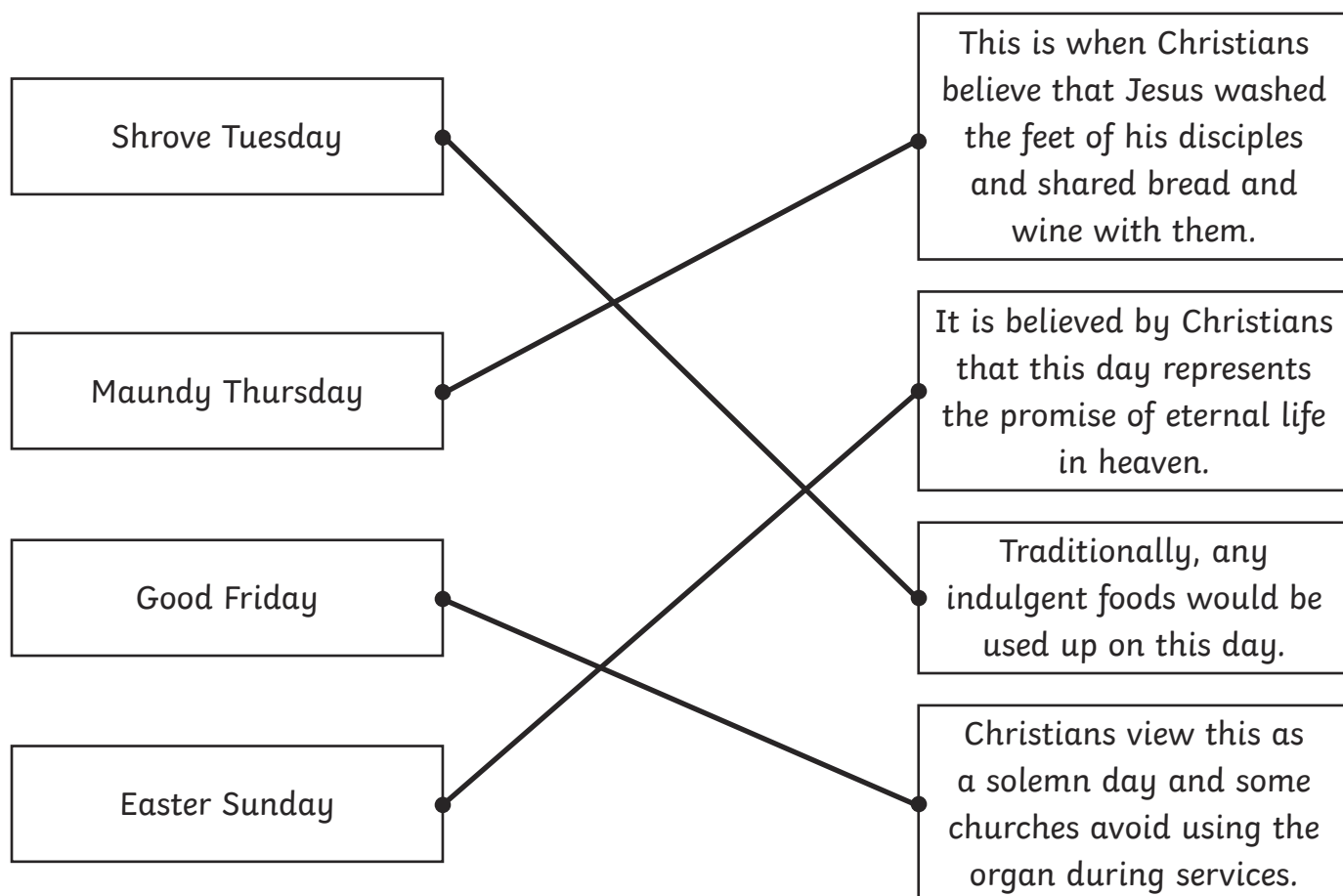
10. Summarise what you have learnt about Maundy Thursday in 30 words or fewer.

Answers

1. Look at the first paragraph. Which word means the same as 'regret' or 'remorse'? Tick one.

- ☒ repentance
- ☐ temptation
- ☐ luxury
- ☐ derived

2. Draw **four** lines and match each event with the corresponding description.



3. Look at the section called **Good Friday**. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'gave up' or 'surrendered'.

sacrificed

4. In many Roman Catholic churches, what happens to the leftover palm leaves after the Palm Sunday service?

In many Roman Catholic churches, the leftover palm leaves are subsequently burnt to obtain ashes; these are used during the following year's Ash Wednesday service.

5. Fill in the missing word.

In remembrance of this day, some churches give out small crosses made from palm leaves.

6. Why do you think that eggs are a good symbol of new life?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that eggs are a good symbol of new life because eggs are what some animals, like birds, hatch from. I think an egg is also a similar shape to a large stone, which may remind Christians of Jesus' tomb.

7. Compare Lent with another religious festival when people may choose to fast.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Muslims may fast during Ramadan and they may not eat or drink anything from dawn to sunset. This is similar to Lent because, traditionally, Christians would give up eating some food items, too.

8. What do you think the impact on the church is when the organ is not played during a Good Friday service? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the impact of the organ not being played would create a more sombre atmosphere in the church as hymns can often be quite joyful. I think that this is done in order to respect the day when Christians believe that Jesus died.

9. ...pancakes would often be served to use up any indulgent foods.

What impression does the word 'indulgent' give the reader about the food?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The word 'indulgent' gives the impression that the food is luxurious and rich. It may contain lots of fat or sugar and people may see it as a treat.

10. Summarise what you have learnt about Maundy Thursday in 30 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Christians believe that Jesus had the Last Supper with his disciples. He washed his disciples' feet and shared bread and wine with them. He was later betrayed by Judas.