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Comenius project
"Culture box"
April 2010

***DISCOVERING
TRADITIONS
THROUGH EUROPE***

SAN PIETRO VERNOTICO – ITALY



OROSHÁZA - HUNGARY



TRABZON - TURKEY



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Scuola Secondaria di Primo Grado "Don Minzoni"
San Pietro Vernotico (BR) - Italia

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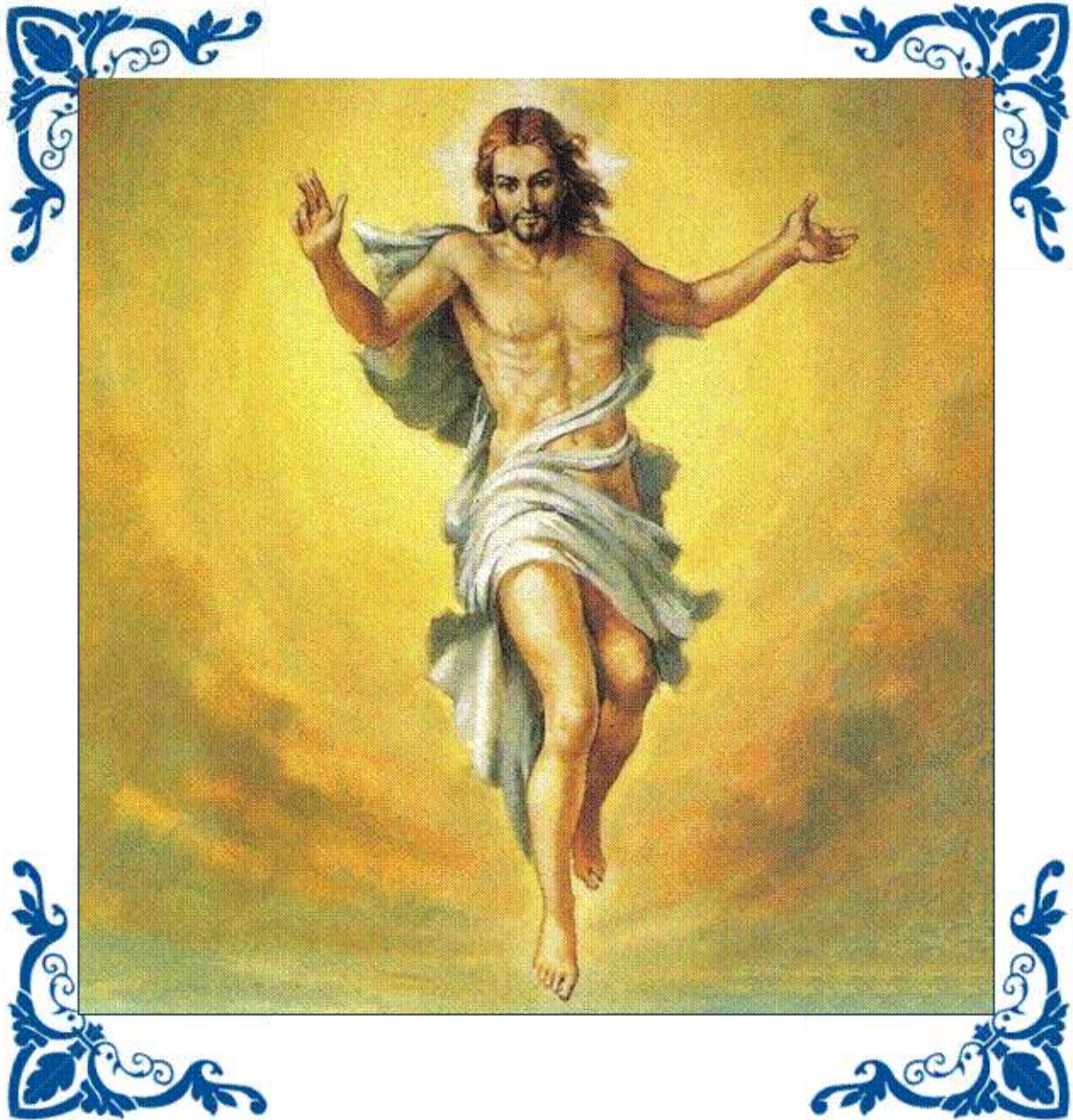
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PASQUA



PASQUA

la festa di chi crede
nella bellezza dei piccoli gesti e di chi sa
che la vita sa stupire
oltre ogni aspettativa.
Che la gioia pervada il tuo cuore
e ti regali felicità inattese.

TRADIZIONI PASQUALI IN ITALIA

La **PASQUA** è la più antica ed importante delle feste cristiane. Il nome deriva dall'ebraico *P è s a c h* (passaggio), parola accolta poi dal greco col nome *πασχα* e successivamente dal latino con il termine *Pascha*. E' la massima festività della liturgia cristiana perché celebra la **Resurrezione di Gesù di Nazareth** avvenuta, secondo le Scritture, tre giorni dopo la sua morte in croce.

LA DATAZIONE DELLA PASQUA

Nei primissimi tempi del Cristianesimo, la Risurrezione di Gesù era ricordata ogni domenica. Successivamente, la Chiesa cristiana decise di celebrarla soltanto una volta l'anno, ma parecchie correnti religiose dibatterono tra di loro per stabilire la data dell'evento. Le controversie ebbero termine con il Concilio di Nicea del 325 d.C. in cui si stabilì definitivamente che la Pasqua doveva essere celebrata da tutta la Cristianità **la prima domenica dopo la luna piena seguente l'equinozio di primavera** (21 marzo). Inoltre nel 525 si stabilì che la data doveva trovarsi **tra il 22 marzo e il 25 aprile**.

Oggi la data si calcola scientificamente utilizzando per il computo il meridiano di Gerusalemme, luogo della morte e risurrezione di Cristo. E' da notare come la data della Pasqua ortodossa non coincida con quella cattolica, perché la Chiesa ortodossa utilizza per il calcolo il calendario giuliano, anziché quello gregoriano. Pertanto la Pasqua ortodossa cade circa una settimana dopo quella cattolica.



LA PASQUA EBRAICA

Prima della nascita di Cristo la Pasqua occupava un posto centrale anche nella religione ebraica. Gli ebrei infatti la celebravano all'inizio della primavera nel mese di Nisan (tra marzo e aprile) per ricordare l'esodo del popolo d'Israele dall'Egitto sotto la guida di Mosè. Probabilmente alle sue origini era una festa agricola celebrata per ringraziare Dio e per invocare la prosperità delle greggi e dei prodotti dei campi. I pastori, prima di partire per i pascoli di primavera, erano abituati a sacrificare un agnello alla divinità, bagnando poi con il suo sangue i sostegni delle tende. Pensavano così di tenere lontani gli spiriti del male. Fu in occasione delle feste di Pasqua che Mosè e il popolo ebraico fuggirono dall'Egitto dopo aver consumato gli alimenti prescritti da Dio (cap. 12 dell'Esodo): l'agnello maschio (d'età inferiore all'anno) con il cui sangue furono segnati gli stipiti delle porte di casa, il pane azzimo (senza lievito) e le erbe amare. Da quel momento la Pasqua ha per gli ebrei un grande significato, ricorda l'amicizia con Dio e il **"passaggio" dalla schiavitù alla libertà**.

Nel corso dei secoli il rituale della Pasqua è rimasto sostanzialmente sempre uguale e la festa è ancora oggi celebrata da tutti gli ebrei con la massima solennità e per la durata di sette giorni.



LA PASQUA CRISTIANA



La Pasqua cristiana ha conservato come simboli l'agnello e il pane, aggiungendo il lievito nella farina, ma rinunciando alle erbe della tradizione ebraica. Le due tradizioni coincidono nel ricordo dell'Ultima Cena: infatti fu nel corso della cena pasquale ebraica che Gesù, secondo la narrazione evangelica, istituì il sacramento dell'**Eucarestia** (in cui il **pane** è l'alimento che identifica il **Corpo di Cristo**).

LA QUARESIMA

La Pasqua é preceduta da un periodo di penitenza che dura **quaranta giorni** e va dal mercoledì delle Ceneri al Sabato Santo, cioè il Sabato prima di Pasqua. La Chiesa ricorda i giorni passati da Gesù nel deserto e le sue tentazioni di potere e ricchezza. In questo tempo i Cristiani sono chiamati ad una **preghiera** intensa e alla pratica del **digiuno**, cioè alla rinuncia totale o parziale a cibo e bevande. Tutto questo per recuperare uno spirito di semplicità, rinunciando al superfluo e all'egoismo, e per intensificare la solidarietà verso i poveri e i sofferenti.

In questo periodo gli altari delle Chiese sono spogli e il Sacerdote, durante le celebrazioni, indossa vesti di colore viola in segno di penitenza.

LA SETTIMANA SANTA



La Settimana Santa inizia con la **processione della Domenica delle Palme**, in cui si benedicono e si distribuiscono i rami d'ulivo che vengono poi portati nelle case. Alcuni vengono bruciati e le ceneri verranno utilizzate nelle celebrazioni del Mercoledì delle Ceneri dell'anno successivo.

Ci sono paesi nei quali si portano in processione le statue dei Santi Protettori che accompagnano un Gesù Giovinetto attorniato da grandi foglie di Palma intrecciate ad arte e rami d'ulivo, in un clima festoso in cui la tradizione vuole che le ragazze sfoggino un abito nuovo.

La festa è nata a Gerusalemme nel V secolo per commemorare l'ingresso di Gesù nella città in groppa a un asinello, accolto da una folla di gente semplice e di fanciulli con in mano palme e rami d'ulivo.



Sono molto importanti i riti del **Triduo Pasquale**.

IL GIOVEDÌ SANTO commemora l'istituzione dell'Eucarestia nell'Ultima Cena. Durante la celebrazione eucaristica (**COENA DOMINI**) si ripete il rito della **lavanda dei piedi** che rievoca il gesto di umiltà di Gesù che lavò i piedi ai suoi discepoli prima della morte.



La serata del Giovedì Santo è dedicata alla **visita ai Sepolcri** che vengono realizzati in ogni parrocchia e spesso si fa a gara per il migliore allestimento artistico. Adorni di ceri, fiori e vasi con pianticelle di frumento germinate al buio, i Sepolcri sono considerati come una camera ardente che racchiude il corpo di Cristo e si veglia in preghiera fino al mattino successivo. I fedeli fanno il giro nelle diverse parrocchie e vivono questo evento con grande coinvolgimento come se fosse una visita di lutto.

Dal Giovedì fino al Sabato Santo le campane sono "mute" (vengono "legate") in segno di dolore per la morte di Gesù.

IL VENERDI SANTO è la giornata più toccante, di lutto assoluto perché ricorda la **Passione e morte di Cristo sulla Croce**. Non molti anni fa anche le sale cinematografiche interrompevano le loro proiezioni per vivere più intensamente questo forte momento emotivo.

La sera del Venerdì Santo si svolge il rito dell'**Adorazione della Croce** e si ripercorre in quattordici tappe la **VIA CRUCIS** che

indica il cammino di Gesù verso il Calvario. Tale pratica risale al IV secolo quando i cristiani che si recavano in pellegrinaggio a Gerusalemme cercarono di stabilire un percorso devozionale con punti di sosta, o **stazioni**, che commemoravano momenti importanti della Passione di Gesù Cristo.



Nella notte del **SABATO SANTO** si celebra la **Risurrezione**: si accende il grande cero pasquale che ne simboleggia la luce e che verrà spento per l'Ascensione, si benedice il fonte battesimale perché anticamente in questo giorno veniva conferito il Battesimo e si compie la Svelata del Cristo consistente nella caduta di un enorme telo che copre l'Altare maggiore e nella conseguente comparsa del simulacro del Cristo Risorto; nello stesso istante si "sciogliono" le campane che suonano a gloria e annunciano la Risurrezione, in un tripudio di canti e applausi del popolo: è un momento di grande gioia che ha il suo culmine nella giornata di Domenica.

E' molto diffuso, la **DOMENICA di PASQUA**, l'incontro tra la **Madonna e il Figlio Risorto**, una singolare processione che si svolge in molte città, con varianti da paese a paese. Il corteo percorre festoso le vie, accompagnato dal suono delle campane e da fuochi d'artificio. In alcune celebrazioni l'elemento gioioso si manifesta anche nel volo delle colombe.



LE SACRE RAPPRESENTAZIONI

Nel corso della Settimana Santa in molte città e paesi d'Italia si svolgono le Sacre Rappresentazioni che presentano, con una serie di parti recitate, una sorta di rievocazione storica della **Passione di Cristo**.

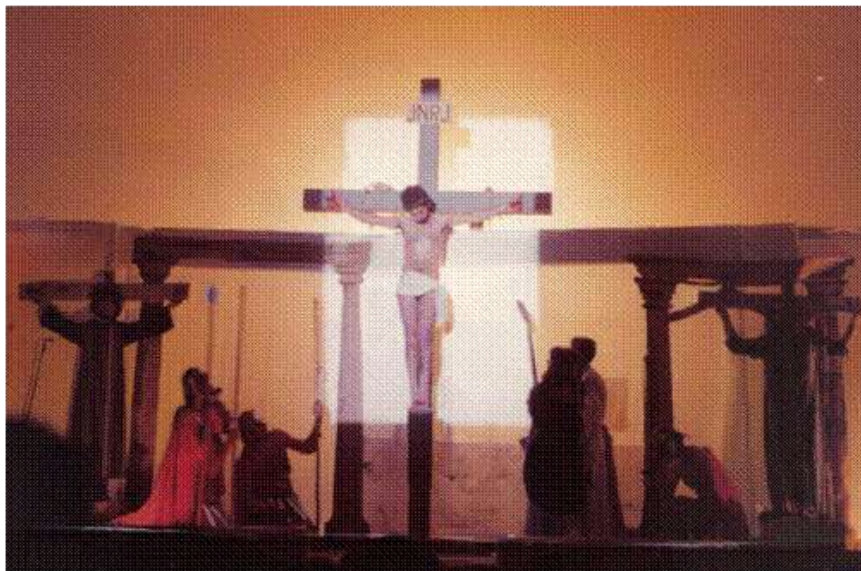


Vengono rappresentate di volta in volta e da caso a caso: l'**Ultima Cena**, la **Lavanda dei Piedi**, il trasferimento simbolico all'**Orto del Getsemani**, il **tradimento di Giuda** con la **cattura di Gesù** e il trasferimento al **Sinedrio**, il **Processo**, il **Calvario**, l'**Agonia** e la **Morte di Gesù**, la **Deposizione**, la **Sepoltura**.

Viene proposta una lunga galleria di figure che impersonano le debolezze di ogni

uomo, la cattiveria e i peggiori vizi che si nascondono nell'animo umano. Come per esempio la crudeltà dei **flagellatori** e il rinnegamento di **Pietro**, la sovversione di **Barabba** e il disinteresse di **Erode**, la menzogna dei **falsi testimoni** al processo e la cattiveria gratuita dei **soldati** che intrecciano la corona di spine, il "**lavarsi le mani**" di **Pilato** che preferisce lasciare Gesù innocente al suo destino, piuttosto che suscitare una rivolta pericolosa, l'abilissima politica di scambio di favori con i "padroni" romani da parte dei sommi sacerdoti **Anna e Caifa**, il tradimento di **Giuda** per trenta miseri denari.

E tuttavia la Settimana in cui il mondo si fa buio e sembra soffocare sotto il peso della sua stessa malvagità è anche quella in cui spunta il sole definitivo della sua salvezza; non solo perché Gesù risorgerà ma anche per i piccoli segni di bontà di cui è disseminata la Passione, quasi fili d'erba e fiori di campo che spuntano dalle pietre insanguinate della via Crucis. Come la pietà delle donne, ad esempio, o il soccorso offerto dal Cireneo nel portare la pesante Croce, o il pentimento dello stesso Pietro, o ancora la misericordia del centurione romano che offre al moribondo una spugna inzuppata d'aceto, fino al ricco Giuseppe d'Arimatea che, dopo la morte di Cristo, ne depone il corpo nel sepolcro nuovo. Tutti i segnali che il bene è possibile anche nei momenti più tristi; che persino negli uomini più crudeli non esiste un male "assoluto". E che il buio sulla terra non è destinato a durare per sempre.



RITI PASQUALI IN ITALIA

Durante il periodo pasquale nelle diverse regioni italiane, da Nord a Sud è tutto un susseguirsi di riti o celebrazioni molto particolari, con infinite sfumature che variano da un luogo all'altro, ricche di scenografie emozionanti e commoventi in cui si mescolano dati folkloristici ed elementi liturgici ufficiali. Il copione però è lo stesso nel quale i protagonisti sono il **Bene** che sconfigge il **Male**, l'**Angelo** che sconfigge il **Diavolo**, la **Vita** che sconfigge la **Morte**. Sono spesso ritualità che si tramandano da secoli, derivanti da usi e costumi locali, da antichissime abitudini e da radicate tradizioni.

E' molto sentita la partecipazione di tutto il popolo che vive le varie processioni o riti come se la tragedia del Cristo fosse un fatto di famiglia.

IN SICILIA...

In Sicilia si crede che l'acqua della notte di Pasqua preservi dai mali tanto che, al momento in cui si "slegano" le campane, le persone e gli animali ammalati si immergono nel mare e i contadini si bagnano gli occhi.

A **Trapani** si svolge la "**Processione dei Misteri**" del Venerdì Santo, la cui genesi sembra essere spagnola. Istituita nel XII secolo, è formata da diciotto gruppi di statue scolpite in legno, a grandezza naturale, che rappresentano i principali episodi della Passione di Gesù: ornati di fiori, vengono portati a spalla, ininterrottamente dal



pomeriggio di Venerdì fino alla mattina del Sabato Santo, dai rappresentanti delle diverse corporazioni.

A **Prizzi**, in provincia di Palermo, il giorno di Pasqua c'è una strana tradizione: " **l'abballu de li diavuli** ". Un gruppo di giovani indossano orrende maschere di zinco con denti lunghi e sporgenti e vestiti rossi per rappresentare i diavoli. Per tutta la giornata circolano nel paese per catturare le anime.

Tra i diavoli c'è anche la Morte, armata di balestra. Chi viene indicato e colpito simbolicamente dalla Morte non ha via di scampo: viene preso dalla turba di diavoli e trascinato al più vicino inferno che altro non è che un bar o un'osteria dove il malcapitato è costretto ad offrire da bere a tutti.



I diavoli interrompono il loro ballo nel pomeriggio quando altri giovani, vestiti da angeli, li portano al cospetto della Madonna che esce dalla Chiesa principale per andare incontro al Cristo. Qui i diavoli domati si inginocchiano fra le due statue e si tolgono le maschere; la rappresentazione si chiude col trionfo del Bene sul Male.

IN ABRUZZO...

La Domenica di Pasqua, a **Sulmona**, si rinnova uno dei riti più suggestivi di tutto l'Abruzzo: " **la Madonna che scappa** ", una celebrazione di origine medievale. E' una rappresentazione carica di significati religiosi e di toni drammatici, soprattutto per la personificazione della statua della Madonna che, chiusa nella Chiesa, non riesce a credere alla notizia della resurrezione



che le porta San Giovanni. Soltanto in seguito Maria si convince ed esce sulla piazza. Inizialmente la statua di Maria procede lentamente; poi, improvvisamente, si lancia in una folle e gioiosa corsa verso il Figlio. Durante questa corsa, la Madonna perde il manto nero che la avvolge e che libera il suo prezioso vestito di seta verde con ricami d'oro. Al posto del fazzoletto del lutto tra le sue mani spunta una rosa rossa e candide colombe si levavano tutt' intorno alle statue della Madre e del Figlio finalmente riunite.

La scena è commovente, i fedeli versano lacrime di tenerezza ed elevano preghiere, mentre la banda intona un inno trionfale e scoppiano i petardi e i mortaretti in segno di giubilo.

In molti Comuni dell'Abruzzo, nel momento in cui le campane sono disciolte a gloria, si fanno muovere i primi passi ai bambini.

IN CALABRIA...

Un rito molto simile a quello di Sulmona si svolge anche nel Sud d'Italia, a **Vibo Valentia**, con un nome diverso: "**l'affruntata**", cioè l'incontro della Madonna col Cristo Risorto.

A **Catanzaro**, il "pomeriggio del giorno del dolore", il Venerdì Santo, è caratterizzato da "**La Naca**" (la "culla" in cui viene deposta la statua di Gesù), una processione nata nel 1600 durante la quale viene riproposta l'antica scena della deposizione di Gesù dalla croce. I fedeli, giunti a migliaia dai paesi vicini, avanzano con un antico passo di danza che mima l'atto del cullare il Cristo.



IN TOSCANA

A Firenze, nella mattina di Pasqua, si svolge una nota cerimonia che risale ai tempi della prima Crociata (1096): lo "Scoppio del Carro".

Secondo la tradizione sembra che la prima favilla del fuoco sacro venisse un tempo provocata dallo sfregamento di tre frammenti di pietra tolti al Santo Sepolcro e portati a Firenze da Messer Pazzino de' Pazzi.

L'antico rito diventa oggi spettacolo con l'allestimento del carro che viene trainato da buoi bianchi e infiorati fino al Duomo. Qui viene teso un filo di ferro che unisce il carro all'altare maggiore. Sul filo viene posta una "colombina" che altro non è che un razzo dalle sembianze di un bianco piccione con un ramoscello di ulivo nel becco. Nel momento della Risurrezione, l'Arcivescovo accende la miccia della colombina che, sibilando, scorre lungo il filo e va ad incendiare i mortaretti e i fuochi d'artificio disposti sul carro. Inizia con fragore lo scoppio assordante e, sia pure in maniera simbolica, la distribuzione a tutta la città del fuoco benedetto.

La tradizione vuole che, se lo scoppio risulta perfetto e se la colombina compie il percorso per intero, per Firenze si preannuncia un anno positivo.



IN LOMBARDIA



A Bormio, in provincia di Sondrio, esiste una tradizione unica nel suo genere, che affonda le sue radici nella natura pastorale di questa terra: sono i "Pasquali", vero e proprio rito propiziatorio per la nuova stagione dopo i rigori dell'inverno. I Pasquali consistono nella benedizione di cinque agnellini che vengono trasportati nella Chiesa ornati nel migliore dei modi da ciascuno dei cinque rioni in cui è suddiviso il borgo. Ogni pastore rionale conduce il suo agnellino alla Chiesa di appartenenza. Qualche volta si tratta di un bimbo vestito di pelli che stringe tra le braccia un agnellino bianco.

La preparazione dei Pasquali comincia in pieno inverno quando la Pasqua è ancora lontana. Nei singoli rioni vengono costituiti gruppi di giovani ognuno dei quali sceglie un tema che abbia attinenza con la Pasqua e che va realizzato attraverso una composizione artigianale e artistica.

IN PUGLIA

Un particolare significato di espiazione acquista la processione a **Bari** dove i confratelli, chiamati " **Perdune** ", procedono a due a due a piedi nudi, indossano un'ampia tunica bianca, hanno il viso coperto, portano una corona di spine sul capo e un lungo bastone in mano.



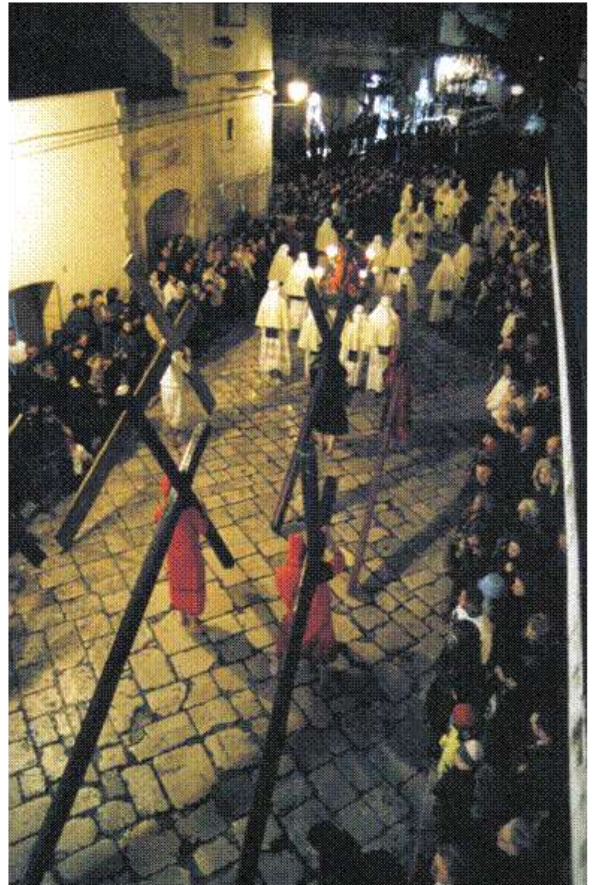
A **Francavilla Fontana**, in provincia di Brindisi, tra il Giovedì e il Venerdì Santo si svolge il pellegrinaggio ai Sepolcri dei " **Pappamusci** ", i pellegrini incappucciati che, così come avviene da secoli, camminano lentamente a coppia, scalzi, con un lungo camice bianco, cinto in vita da un cingolo marrone, mozzetta color panna, scapolare marrone con la scritta " *DECOR CARMELI* " e cappello da pellegrino a falde larghe . Portano nella mano destra un bastone sormontato da una crocetta e un gancio a riccio ai due terzi dell'altezza dove poggiano il Rosario.



Tante sono le ragioni che spingono uomini di ogni età e cultura diverse a fare i Pappamusci durante la Settimana Santa. La loro partecipazione non è tanto da ricondurre al folklore, quanto ad un atto di fede, un voto da adempiere negli anni. Il loro procedere lento, con i talloni neri di terra e di asfalto, sembra quasi voler far morire nel silenzio i rumori del nostro tempo.

Alla processione che si svolge il Venerdì Santo partecipano i penitenti scalzi ed incappucciati, chiamati " **li Pappamusci cu lli Trai** ", pellegrini che trascinano pesanti croci sulle spalle ed avanzano, con passo cadenzato, tra le deboli luci che a mala pena illuminano le strade, accompagnati dal suono sordo delle " **trenule** " o " **troccole** ", rudimentali strumenti di legno con piccole piastrine di metallo, che invitano la gente ad un profondo silenzio.

In alcuni paesi del **Salento** è da segnalare anche la presenza della cosiddetta " **Quaremma** ", raffigurazione simbolica della Quaresima che, nella tradizione popolare, è rappresentata da una vecchietta con la conocchia in mano ed un'arancia amara, con sette penne infilzate. Si tratta di un fantoccio che, la notte tra il martedì grasso e il Mercoledì delle Ceneri, viene appeso al camino o per le strade e ogni settimana si sfila una penna dall'arancia. L'ultima penna viene sfilata a Pasqua, giorno in cui si butta nel fuoco la Quaremma.



LA CROCE DEI MISTERI E I TRISTI DIVIETI

La **CROCE DEI MISTERI** viene usata solo nelle processioni del Giovedì e del Venerdì Santo, per il resto dell'anno rimane attaccata ad una parete.

La Croce é caratteristica perché agli estremi dei bracci tiene infissi due chiodi dai quali pendono fasci di corde annodati alle punte: **gli scudisci** ; il terzo chiodo é ad un terzo dell'altezza. Su di essa vi sono posti di traverso da una parte la **lancia** che trafisse il costato, dall'altra la **scala** che servì per calare giù il Cristo morto e la **verga** con in cima la spugna con cui gli fu dato il fiele mentre era assetato e agonizzante.

Attaccate ai bracci ci sono poi le sagome intagliate di altri simboli : la **lanterna** che servì a Giuda per cercare Gesù nell'orto degli ulivi; il **gallo** che aveva ricordato all'apostolo Pietro il triplice rinnegamento nei confronti del Maestro; una **mano**, quella che schiaffeggiò il volto di Cristo ; la **corona di spine** con la quale per beffa era stato incoronato; la **colonna** alla quale fu legato per la flagellazione; la **tunica** che i soldati si giocarono a dadi ; i **dadi** ; il **martello** con il quale erano stati battuti i chiodi per la crocifissione; l'**ampolla** di fiele; le **tenaglie** con le quali fu schiodato il corpo dalla croce.



Quei simboli, che sono attrezzi delle arti e dei mestieri, un tempo legavano chi li usava quotidianamente al ricordo della Passione, per cui tutti dovevano sentirsi in colpa in quella settimana di penitenza e di assicurato perdono perché la morte potesse mutarsi in vita eterna. Perciò, durante la Settimana Santa, si interrompeva ogni tipo di lavoro: il potatore non saliva le scale per potare gli alberi e non poteva usare l'accetta che aveva una lama tagliente; il falegname non usava il martello e le tenaglie; il carrettiere di notte non poteva viaggiare con la lanterna accesa sotto il traino, ma si diceva che il Signore aveva provveduto ad illuminare la strada con la luna; nessun muratore avrebbe mai costruito una colonna perché sarebbe stato come rinnovare lo strumento della flagellazione;

i funari non dovevano intrecciare funi, perché con le funi era stato flagellato il corpo di Cristo; anche gli incalliti giocatori si astenevano dall' andare a giocare a dadi nelle botteghe; i sarti e i calzolai non consegnavano i vestiti e le scarpe ; il fabbro incappucciava l' incudine e riponeva il martello ; il contadino andava in campagna ma non usava la zappa; le donne non dovevano fare il bucato specie di Venerdì Santo che era giorno di lutto.



I SIMBOLI DELLA PASQUA

L' UOVO DI PASQUA

Nell' iconografia cristiana, l'uovo è il **simbolo della Risurrezione**, il suo guscio rappresenta la tomba dalla quale uscì vivo Cristo Risorto.

La tradizione dell'uovo però ha origini antichissime e risale agli albori della storia umana perché ha sempre rivestito un ruolo unico, quello di simbolo della vita e della rigenerazione (in quanto contiene l'embrione), ma anche del mistero, quasi della sacralità (non avendo angoli, simboleggia la continuità della vita, dunque l'eternità).



Già al tempo del paganesimo in alcune credenze il Cielo e la Terra erano ritenuti due metà dello stesso uovo e le uova erano il simbolo dell'eterno ritorno della vita e quindi auspicio di fecondità. I primi ad usare l'uovo come oggetto beneaugurante sono stati i Persiani che festeggiavano l'arrivo della primavera con lo scambio di uova di gallina. Nell'antica Roma i contadini erano soliti sotterrare un uovo dipinto di rosso perché fosse propizio per il raccolto.

Per secoli l'uovo è stato associato anche alla primavera come simbolo del rifiorire della natura ed è proprio con questo significato di rinascita che l'uovo entrò a far parte della tradizione cristiana per rappresentare la **rinascita della vita dopo la morte** e dunque la Risurrezione di Cristo.

Nella simbologia, le uova colorate con colori brillanti richiamano i colori della primavera e la luce del sole. Quelle colorate di rosso scuro sono invece simbolo del sangue di Cristo.

In occasione della ricorrenza pasquale si usa dipingere le uova per addobbare le case o regalarle di cioccolato soprattutto ai bambini che attendono con ansia il giorno di Pasqua per romperle e trovare la sorpresa.



In alcuni paesi è tradizione compiere anche dei giochi con le uova sode come ad esempio quello di farle rotolare da un dosso e vince quello che arriva più lontano con il

guscio integro.

Gli Ortodossi celebrano la ricorrenza dei morti il venerdì successivo al giorno di Pasqua. In tale occasione qualcuno ancora colora le uova di rosso e le mette sopra le tombe come augurio di felice vita ultraterrena per i loro cari che sono sepolti.



LA COLOMBA

Nel periodo pasquale è consuetudine regalare la colomba, un dolce di pasta lievitata che tradizionalmente chiude il pranzo pasquale.



La colomba richiama l'episodio del diluvio universale descritto nella Genesi allorquando fu proprio una colomba con un ramoscello d'ulivo nel becco a tornare da Noè per testimoniare che la terra era libera dalle acque e per annunciare che la pace era tornata tra Dio e l'uomo; questo significava l'inizio di un'epoca nuova per l'umanità intera. La colomba diventa quindi **simbolo di pace**.

Le origini della colomba intesa come dolce vanno ricercate in epoca medievale (metà del IV sec.) quando, durante l'assedio di Pavia da parte di Re Alboino, lo stesso si vide offrire un dolce a forma di colomba in segno di pace.

La colomba diventò il dolce simbolo della Pasqua italiana nei primi decenni del Novecento quando l'azienda milanese MOTTA lanciò sul mercato un dolce simile al panettone di uvetta e canditi, dalla forma di una colomba con una croccante ricopertura di glassa e mandorle. Il manifesto pubblicitario riportava il disegno di una colomba con lo slogan "*Colomba Pasquale Motta, il dolce che sa di Primavera*". Da allora sono fiorite moltissime varianti di questo dolce, arricchite di creme e farciture varie.



IL CONIGLIETTO PASQUALE

Tra i diversi richiami pasquali che si vedono nelle vetrine dei negozi compare anche un simpatico coniglietto che porta le uova. La sua presenza si richiama alla **lepre** che, sin dai primi tempi del Cristianesimo, era presa a **simbolo di Cristo**. Inoltre, con la caratteristica del suo manto che cambia colore secondo la stagione, venne indicata da Sant' Ambrogio come **simbolo della Risurrezione**.



L'AGNELLO



L'agnello rappresenta il **corpo innocente di Gesù Crocifisso**, trafitto da un colpo di lancia. Gesù è presentato come "*Agnello di Dio*" che si offre in sacrificio per la salvezza



dell'uomo.

Durante il periodo pasquale nelle famiglie si prepara un tipico dolce di pasta di mandorle a forma di agnello con uno stendardo rosso, segno di vittoria: **Gesù Risorto che ha vinto la morte!**

IL PESCE



E' fatto con pasta di mandorle anche un altro dolce dalla caratteristica forma del pesce. Nell'iconografia paleocristiana il pesce é uno dei segni più antichi ed è la raffigurazione simbolica di Gesù poiché in greco le lettere della parola "pesce" che sono **J-CH-TH-Y'-S** (ΙΧΘΥΣ) sono anche le iniziali di: **J**esoùs **C**hristòs **T**heòu **Y**iòs **S**otèr che significa: *Gesù Cristo Figlio di Dio*

Salvatore. Questa formula probabilmente corrispondeva ad una primordiale professione di fede nella Chiesa delle origini.

DETTI POPOLARI

Sono molte le espressioni popolari che si riferiscono alle festività pasquali e alla gioia della Domenica di Resurrezione: "jata l'uecchi ca iddera Pascha " : beati coloro che sono arrivati vivi e felicemente alla nuova Pasqua". O ancora: "essere cuntentu comu na Pascha " o, al contrario, "fici na mala Pascha "

CIBI E RICETTE DELLA PASQUA

Una particolarità della Pasqua italiana risiede anche nella sua cucina. Tutte le regioni italiane si preparano ai festeggiamenti con piatti tipici legati al primo risvegliarsi della natura. La festa di Pasqua infatti, oltre alle radicate motivazioni religiose, ha fin dalle lontane origini anche risonanze agresti e nasce come motivo di ringraziamento e di offerta delle primizie del campo e dell'orto.

Oggi come allora si ritrovano sulle tavole le spighe del grano tramutate in pane, le erbe, le uova, l'agnello. In certe località, nell'imbandire le tavole, si privilegia la tinta gialla che è il colore del tuorlo d'uovo, simbolo di fecondità e di rinascita della natura. Fra tutti gli alimenti tipici della Pasqua, il **pane** ha un valore particolare perché richiama l'episodio dell'Ultima Cena quando Gesù spezzò il pane e lo divise con gli apostoli, offrendo così il suo *Corpo* in sacrificio per tutta l'umanità.

Da sempre viene realizzato con diversi metodi a seconda dell'identità territoriale: a Roma si mangia la focaccia con semi di finocchio, in Toscana è invece tipico il pane di ramerino, impastato con farina, olio, rosmarino e uva passa. In entrambi il simbolismo pasquale emerge grazie a finocchio e rosmarino che ricordano gli oli aromatici con i quali le donne unsero il corpo del Cristo deposto dalla Croce.



All'uovo e al pane si ispirano le **torte salate** e le **torte verdi**, come la **torta Pasqualina**, antico piatto genovese, la torta di Pasqua al formaggio di origine umbra, le pizze al formaggio campane ripiene di uova, pecorino fresco, farina e olio d'oliva.

Altri simbolismi si ritrovano in alcuni **dolci pasquali** come gli agnelli di marzapane, le colombe, le ciambelle che richiamano la corona di spine posta sul capo di Gesù.



Un dolce tradizionale pugliese, tipico di Bari e del



Gargano, è la "**scarcella**" (o "**squarcella**"). Si tratta di una ciambella, ricoperta di glassa di zucchero e decorata con confetti colorati. Il significato del nome lo si può, forse, trovare nel verbo "*scarcerare*", simbolo del Cristo liberatosi dalla prigione della morte, oppure simbolo dell'anima "scarcerata" dal peccato



originale con il battesimo. Altra possibile origine del nome è la "*scarsella*", antica borsa di cuoio che conteneva i soldi come oggi il dolce contiene le uova.

In Puglia, in particolare nel Salento, sono molto diffusi lu "**puddhricasciu**" e la "**panareddhra**" che, a differenza del primo, viene donata alle donne. Sono molto simili alla "**cuddhrura**" siciliana, un grosso dolce che

può essere preparato diverse forme (galletto, pupa, cestino, cuore, agnello, pesce, campana...) decorate con alcune croci di pasta (tipo reticolato) in cui vengono imprigionate delle uova sode con tutto il guscio. La tradizione vuole che si prepari con un numero dispari di uova perché questi numeri hanno virtù propiziatrici. In alcune località le uova raggiungono addirittura il numero



21 in un solo dolce che viene regalato, solitamente a forma di cuore, dalle giovani donne (le "zite") ai loro fidanzati per ricambiare la palma benedetta ricevuta la Domenica delle Palme. Si ritiene che, tanto più grande è il dolce e più numerose le uova, tanto più i sentimenti sono profondi e sinceri.

Un dolce tipico della Campania è la famosa "**pastiera**", a base di grano ammollato precedentemente e poi cotto in latte e zucchero, con ricotta, uova, latte, essenza di fiori d'arancia.

Il dolce sembra avere origini pagane. Narra la leggenda che la sirena Partenope, all'arrivo della primavera, emergesse dalle acque del golfo per salutare Napoli; il suo canto melodioso commosse i cittadini a tal punto che, per renderle omaggio, incaricarono le più belle fanciulle di recarle in dono alcune vivande che rappresentassero la generosità della natura: la farina ed il grano come i frutti più significativi della terra, le uova a rappresentare la



cellula che si rinnova, la ricotta come omaggio dei pastori, l'acqua di arancio e di rose e lo zucchero a simboleggiare i profumi e la dolcezza della primavera. Partenope li consegnò agli dei che, dosandoli tra loro, crearono la prelibata torta.

Se l'uovo, protagonista della ricetta, era per gli antichi simbolo di rinascita, l'avvento del Cristianesimo non ha rinnegato questa allegoria ed è proprio nei conventi che l'arte della pastiera è stata mantenuta viva, tramandata e raffinata, confermando alla torta, anche nella cultura cristiana, la qualifica di dolce pasquale.

LA PASQUETTA

È il giorno successivo alla Pasqua, conosciuto anche come il **Lunedì dell'Angelo** perché ricorda l'incontro dell'Angelo con le donne giunte al Sepolcro di Cristo trovato vuoto. Si tratta di una festività non di precetto per i Cristiani, ma un giorno di riposo lavorativo introdotto nel dopoguerra dallo Stato Italiano per allungare la festa di Pasqua.

Esiste però anche una interpretazione religiosa legata allo spirito pasquale secondo cui la giornata fuori porta nascerebbe per rievocare il **viaggio dei due discepoli di Cristo diretti a Emmaus**, a pochi chilometri da Gerusalemme, durante il quale Gesù Risorto apparve loro e si fece riconoscere dallo spezzare il pane. In effetti, secondo la tradizione, il giorno di Pasquetta si è soliti uscire in campagna insieme a parenti e amici, con attività all'aria aperta e un picnic sull'erba.



Cena di Emmaus - Caravaggio

In tutta Italia ci sono diverse tradizioni regionali per celebrare questo giorno di festa: si va dalle sagre alla benedizione di moto e autocarri, dalle iniziative artistiche a eventi folcloristici. Molto diffuse sono le feste con le uova sode, ispirate all'antica tradizione contadina di raccolta delle uova per preparare le focacce di Pasqua. Ad esempio, in Emilia Romagna e Umbria, viene fatto un gioco di abilità in cui due contendenti devono tentare di rompere l'uovo dell'avversario colpendolo con la punta del proprio, che deve invece restare intatto.

Le uova sono comunque l'ingrediente essenziale per preparare il menù di Pasquetta, colorato, gustoso e leggero: piatti freddi, frittatine, tortini, insalate... con cui riempire il cestino di vimini per fare la speciale scampagnata con la famiglia e gli amici.



Filastrocche e Poesie di Pasqua

Pasqua è gialla come un pulcino,
come il collare di un cagnolino,
è rosa e allegra come un confetto,
come i bei fiori di quel rametto.
Pasqua è celeste come il mare e il cielo,
come la trama di questo velo,
è verde brillante come un bel prato,
come il trenino che ha appena sbruffato.
Pasqua è
come i soi



L'uovo arcobaleno

La mattina di Pasqua nel mio prato
un uovo arcobaleno ho trovato,
era un uovo profumato e strano
non più grande di una mano.

Quando l'ho aperto, con stupore
ho trovato sorprese d'ogni colore:
giallo il sorriso d'un cinesino,
rosso il canto di un algerino,

azzurro il sorriso di uno svedese,
verde la capriola di un portoghese,
violetta la danza di mille bambine,
indaco i suoni di mille ocarine.

E arancione rotondo e paffuto
un sole caldo di benvenuto,
un sole caldo paffuto e rotondo
uguale per tutti i bimbi del mondo.



Una campana

Una campana
piccina, piccina
con la sua voce
fresca e argentina
si sveglia all'alba
tutta contenta
nessuna nuvola
più la spaventa.
Dondola dondola
nel cielo blu
e dice a tutti:
"Risorto è Gesù !"

Nei miei sogni

Nei miei sogni ho immaginato
un grande uovo colorato.
Per chi era? Per la gente
dall'Oriente all'Occidente:
pieno, pieno di sorprese
destinate ad ogni paese.
C'era dentro la saggezza
e poi tanta tenerezza,
l'altruismo, la bontà,
gioia in grande quantità.
Tanta pace, tanto amore
da riempire ogni cuore.



Pasqua a festoni

A festoni la grigia parietaria
come una bimba gracile s'affaccia
ai muri della casa centenaria.
Il ciel di pioggia è tutto una minaccia
sul bosco triste, ché lo intrica il rovo
spietatamente, con tenaci braccia.
Quand'ecco dai pollai sereno e nuovo
il richiamo di Pasqua empie la terra
con l'antica pia favola dell'ovo.

Guido Gozzano



Campane di Pasqua

Campane di Pasqua festose
che a gloria quest'oggi cantate,
oh voci vicine e lontane
che Cristo risorto annunciate,
ci dite con voci serene:
"Fratelli, vogliatevi bene!
Tendete la mano al fratello,
aprite le braccia al perdono;
nel giorno del Cristo risorto
ognuno risorga più buono!"
E sopra la terra fiorita,
cantate, oh campane sonore,
ch'è bella, ch'è buona la vita,
se schiude la porta all'amore.



E' Pasqua !

E' Pasqua !
Sul mandorlo in fiore
il vento d'Aprile
sussurra gentile
la prima parola d'amore.

E' Pasqua !
Con garrulo grido
signora dell'aria
la rondine svara
cercando la fronda e il nido.

E' Pasqua !
Tra candidi veli
di nubi, giocando
trasluce sul mondo
lo smalto azzurrino dei cieli.

E' Pasqua !
Nei cuori sublime
con Cristo risorto
rinascere il conforto
che esalta, soccorre, redime.



Non giace! E' risorto!

Non giace!
E' risorto!
Gesù che era morto
non giace, non giace!
Io penso
a una Pasqua di pace
da Oriente a Occidente,
un mondo giocondo
ove ignoti
sono l'odio e la guerra.
Per tutta la vita,
per tutta la terra,
ogni notte, ogni dì.
Io penso a una Pasqua così.

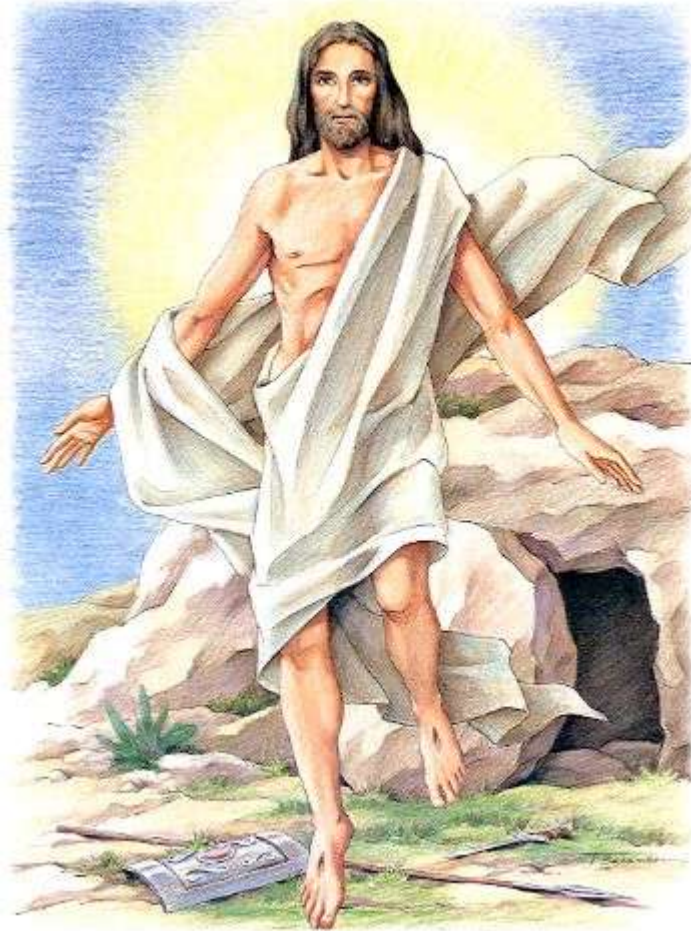
Pasqua

Dormivi e la siepe è fiorita,
dormivi, ed il rovo,
che ancora al crepuscolo nere
tendeva le braccia, stamane
è tutto un rigoglio di fiori;
e il cielo ha smaglianti colori,
e squillano mille campane.
Le rondini volano a schiere
nell'aria: già sono lontane.
È Pasqua! La chiesa, gremita,
odora d'incenso e di ceri.
Sfiorato da tremule dita,
già l'organo geme
e un inno, tra i fiocchi leggeri
d'incenso, dilaga nell'aria,
che tutta ne palpita e freme.



Siamo giunti alla fine del nostro percorso. E' stato un viaggio affascinante tra usi, costumi e tradizioni pasquali in Italia... Abbiamo scoperto tante cose che non conoscevamo, abbiamo imparato a leggere il linguaggio di molti simboli, abbiamo gustato alcune espressioni poetiche e artistiche legate allo spirito pasquale, ma soprattutto abbiamo compreso che la *Pasqua* è la festa della gioia e della **rinascita** in senso ampio.

Per i credenti infine è la certezza della **vittoria definitiva della vita sulla_morte** e la speranza di un futuro che non avrà mai fine.



***Ecco, io sono con voi tutti i giorni,
fino alla fine del mondo***

(Mt. 28, 20)



Ogni giorno è Pasqua

Aiutami, o Signore risorto,
a sorridere alla Pasqua che oggi celebriamo,
a non pensare a ciò che ho lasciato,
ad essere felice di ciò che ho trovato.

Aiutami, o Signore risorto,
a non volgermi indietro perché l'ieri non c'è più
se non come briciola di lievito
per il pane di oggi.

Aiutami a sorridere alla vita che avanza,
sempre così ricca di sorprese e di novità.
Aiutami a sorridere alla poesia che canta nel cuore
per spingermi alla ricerca di spazi sconfinati.

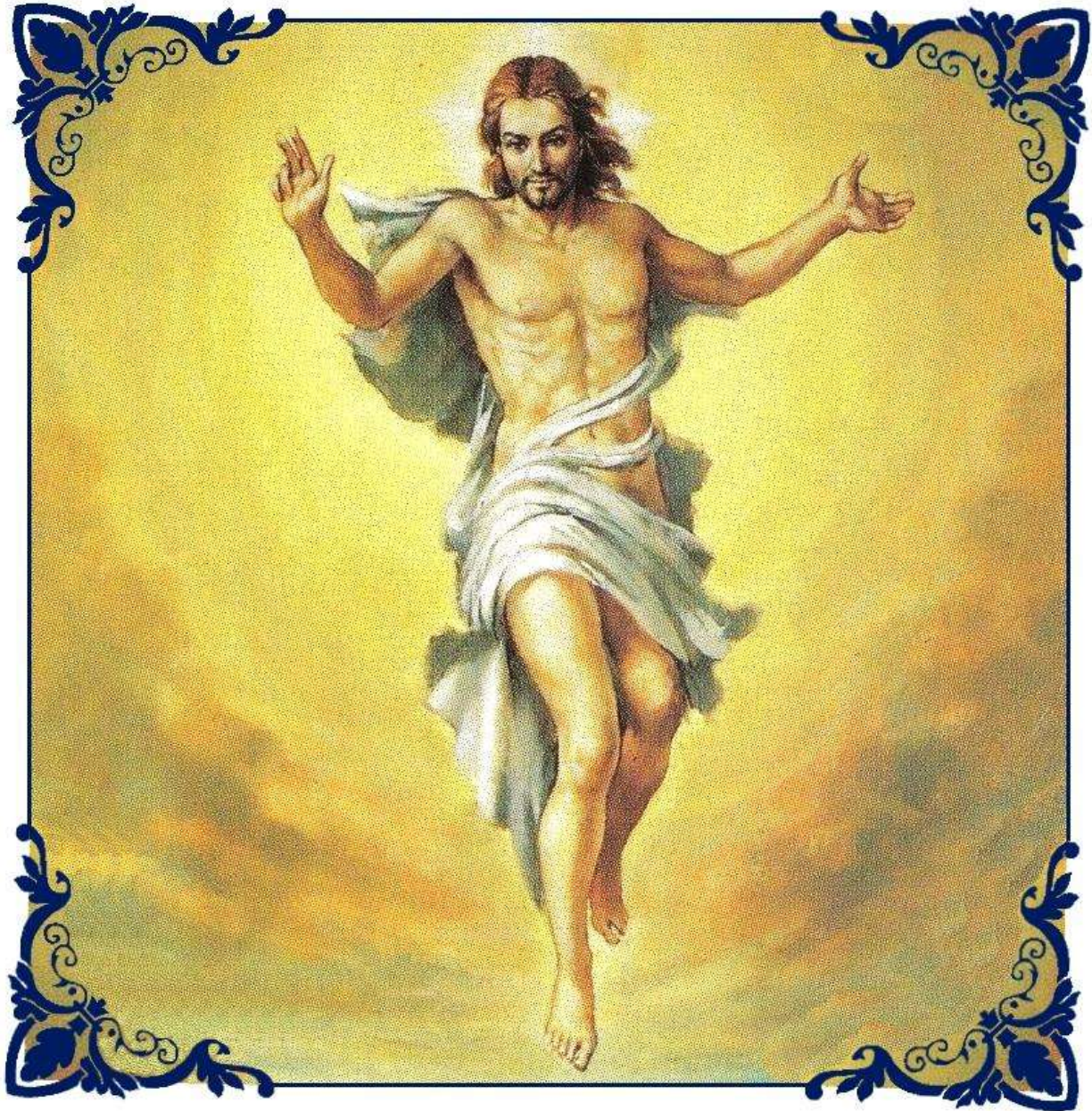
Aiutami, o Signore risorto,
a sorridere ai tentativi che compio
per essere e restare creatura nuova.

Aiutami, o Signore,
che sento vivo dentro di me,
a sorridere ad ogni alba che viene,
perché ora so che,
se vengo e sto con te,
ogni giorno è Pasqua,
ogni giorno è "primo mattino del mondo".

A. Dini



EASTER TRADIZIONS IN ITALY



Easter is the oldest and most important of Christian holidays.

Its name derives from the Jewish word *Psach* (step), then received from the Greek word *πασχα* and by the Latin word *Pascha*.

It is the greatest holiday of the Christian liturgy because it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth that took place, according to the Scriptures, three days after his death on the cross.

THE DATE

In the earliest days of Christianity, the Resurrection of Jesus was remembered every Sunday. Subsequently, the Christian Church decided to celebrate it only once a year, but several religious currents debated to determine the date of the event. The dispute came to an end with the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD where it was settled that Easter should be celebrated by all Christians on the first Sunday after the full moon following the Spring equinox (March 21st). In 525 it was determined that the date must be between March 22nd and April 25th. Today the date is calculated using the meridian of Jerusalem, site of Christ's death and resurrection. The date of Orthodox Easter does not coincide with the Catholic, because the Orthodox Church uses to calculate the Julian calendar, rather than the Gregorian calendar. Therefore the Orthodox Easter falls one week after the Catholic one.

THE PASSEOVER

Before the birth of Christ, Easter also occupied a central place in Jewish religion. The Jews celebrated the fact in the early spring month of Nisan (March-April) to commemorate the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt under the leadership of Moses. Probably it was an event celebrating to thank God and to invoke prosperity of crude and products in the fields. Before leaving for pastures in Spring, the shepherds, sacrificed a lamb to the gods.

It was during the Easter holidays and the Jewish people that Moses fled Egypt after consuming food prescribed by God (Exodus chapter 12): the male lamb (aged less than one year) with which blood were marked the doorposts of the house, the unleavened bread (without yeast) and bitter herbs. Since then Easter has great meaning for Jews, recalls friendship with God and the "transition" from slavery to freedom. Over the centuries, the ritual of Easter has been essentially always the same and the festival is still celebrated by all Jews with solemnity and for a period of seven days.

THE CHRISTIAN EASTER

The Christian Easter has retained, as symbols, the lamb and the bread, adding the yeast in the flour, but giving up herbs of the Jewish tradition.

The two traditions converge in remembrance of the Last Supper; it was during the Jewish Passover meal that Jesus instituted the sacrament of the Eucharist (in which bread is the food that identifies the Body of Christ).

LENT

Easter is preceded by a period of repentance that lasts forty days and runs from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday, that Saturday before Easter. The Church remembers the days spent by Jesus in the desert and its temptations of power and wealth. At

this time Christians are called to an intense prayer and fasting, the total or partial surrender to food and beverages

During this period the altars of the churches are bare and the priest wears purple robes as a sign of penance during the celebration.

THE HOLY WEEK

Like all holidays in Italy, Easter has its share of rituals and traditions. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday procession.

Olive branches are blessed, some are burned and the ashes will be used in the celebration of Ash Wednesday the following year.

The festival was born in Jerusalem in the fifth century to commemorate Jesus' entry into the city greeted by a crowd of simple people and children with palms and olive branches

The Easter Triduum consists of a series of rituals

Holy Thursday commemorates the institution of Eucharist at the Last Supper. During the celebration of the Eucharist (Lord's Supper) we repeat the ritual washing of the feet that evokes the gesture of humility when Jesus washed his disciples' feet before his death.

The Holy Thursday evening is dedicated to visit the "Sepolcri" or tombs in every parish. They are adorned with candles, flowers and potted wheat seedlings germinated in the dark, the tombs are considered as a mortuary chapel containing the body of Christ.

From Thursday until Holy Saturday, the bells are mute as a sign of grief for the death of Jesus

The Holy Friday remembers the Passion and death of Christ on the Cross.

In the evening there is the ceremony of the Adoration of the Cross and retraces steps in fourteen Stations.

Solemn religious processions are held in many towns on the Friday.

Many churches have special statues of the Virgin and Jesus that play a big part in the processions. The statues may be paraded through the city or displayed in the main square. Parade participants are often dressed in traditional ancient costumes. Olive branches are often used instead of or along with palm fronds in the processions and to decorate churches.

While Easter mass will be held in every church in Italy, the biggest and most popular mass is held by the Pope at St. Peter's Basilica. On Good Friday, the Pope celebrates the Via Crucis in Rome near the Colosseum. A huge cross with burning torches lights the sky as the stations of the cross are described in several languages. At the end, the Pope gives a blessing.

The Holy Saturday celebrates the Resurrection: it lights the great Easter candle which symbolizes the light that is turned off for the 'Ascension; the baptismal font is blessed too.

On **Easter Sunday**, the festive procession along the streets is very popular, accompanied by the sound of bells, fireworks and the flight of doves.

THE HOLY PLAYS

During the Holy Week in many cities and towns of Italy people held the Sacred Performances representing the Passion of Christ.

A Passion play is a dramatic presentation depicting the Passion of Christ: the trial, suffering and death of Jesus Christ.

It is a traditional part of Lent and the most fascinating churches of our area in this period become the background for the traditional Holy plays performed by local people and cantors too.

CELEBRATIONS

Easter is celebrated all over the Italian regions, from the North to the South with a series of very special rituals or celebrations.

IN SICILY

In Sicily people believe that the water of the Easter Eve would preserve evils things so that when bells start ringing, people and animals have a bath in the sea and farmers get wet their eyes.

Enna, in Sicily, has a large procession on Good Friday, with more than 2,000 friars dressed in ancient costumes walking through the streets of the city.

Trapani, also in Sicily, is a good place to see processions, held several days during Holy Week. Their Good Friday procession is 24 hours long.

In Prizzi, near Palermo, on Easter Day there is a strange tradition.

A group of young people wears horrible masks with long teeth representing the red devils. Among the devils there is also someone representing the Death armed with a crossbow.

Devils interrupt their dance in the afternoon when other young men, dressed as angels, bring them in front of the Virgin Here demons remove their masks, the representation ends with the triumph of good over evil.

IN ABRUZZO

Sulmona, in the Abruzzo region, celebrates Easter Sunday with La Madonna Che Scappa in Piazza. On Easter Sunday people dress in green and white, colors of peace, hope, and resurrection, and gather in the main piazza. The woman playing the Virgin Mary is dressed in black. As she moves to the fountain, doves are released and the woman is suddenly dressed in green. Music and feasting follow

IN CALABRIA

A ritual very similar to that of Sulmona is also held in the South of Italy, Vibo Valentia, with a different name: "the affruntata", the meeting of the Virgin and Christ Risen.

IN TUSCANY

In Florence, Easter is celebrated with the Scoppio del Carro, explosion of the cart. A huge, decorated wagon is dragged through Florence by white oxen until it reaches Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence's historic centre. Following mass, the Archbishop sends a dove-shaped rocket into the cart, igniting the fireworks held in the cart. This spectacular display is followed by a parade in medieval costumes.

IN LOMBARDY

In Bormio there is a unique tradition that has its roots in the pastoral nature of this land :a rite for the new season after the winter. Five lambs, from the five districts of the village, are transported in the adorned church for the Easter blessing.

IN APULIA

In APULIA, the events related to the Holy Week have always been an important point of reference for the community in terms of participation and emotional involvement. Each province of the region offers an itinerary of faith and religiosity full of emotions: here, religiousness and mysticism blend together to find in the striking white calcareous stone architectures of these old urban centres a privileged place for religious rites.

You can take part to these ancient religious rites, to the traditional processions, following the mysterious hooded heads and the heartbreaking funeral marches played by the local musical bands with very old musical instruments.

Let the theatrical presentation of the Living Passion of Christ of **ALBEROBELLO** attract us: the historical revival is performed in the town centre among *trulli* and dry stone walls, piercing *chianche*, horse neighs, whips, and torch lights that intensify pilgrims' feelings and emotions.

Let's plunge into temporal suspension of the "Pappamusci" pilgrimage in **FRANCAVILLA FONTANA** or of the "Perduni" pilgrimage in **TARANTO**, who, barefooted and hooded, walk "nazzicando", following the slow rhythm of the wooden

"traccole" playing with iron beats to evoke Christ's death: it is a mourning procession during which the so-called "two seas city" seems to be temporally suspended for two long days.

Let's follow the moving processions in **BITONTO**, where along the streets lit up by the braziers the statue of Dead Christ is carried in the carved and golden Spanish "naka", accompanied by the statue of Our lady of Sorrows, coming out from a mass of burning candles.

In the Griko-speaking towns during the Holy week the ritual cantos in Griko, orally handed down across centuries, revoke Jesus' sufferings and sorrows.

The **Quaremma or Caremma** (Quaresima/ Lent) is a puppet typical of the Salento popular costumes.

Symbol of the beginning of Lent and the end of Carnival is exposed on the balconies and on the roofs of the houses in many villages of Salento. It depicts an old ugly and thin woman, dressed all in black in mourning for the death of the Carnival. In his right hand a piece of wool with a spindle, symbols of hard work and flowing time and in the left a bitter orange with seven chicken feathers tucked into it as the number of the missing Sundays from Lent to Easter. The bitter orange represents suffering and the seven feathers, one for each week of abstinence and sacrifice that precedes Easter Sunday, are taken away at each passage of the week. The Quaremma is removed from the terrace and hung by a wire on a pole. When the sound of bells announces the Resurrection, it is burned and with the fire starts the period of purification and salvation.

THE CROSS OF MYSTERIES

The Cross, the all-pervading icon of Christianity, is an integral element of all Christian festivals, including Easter. It is the symbol of life over death.

THE CROSS OF MYSTERIES is only used in the processions of Holy Thursday and Friday .

On each arms there are the shapes of some symbols: the lantern that was used to search for Jesus in the Garden, the cock that reminded Peter the Apostle triple denial against the Master, a hand that slapped the face of Christ, the crown of thorns, and the column to which was attached to the scourging, the robe that the soldiers played dice, the hammer used to beat the nails for the crucifixion, the

ampulla of gall, the tongs with which the body was taken down from the cross.



SYMBOLS OF EASTER

THE EASTER EGG

In Christian iconography, the egg is the symbol of the Resurrection, its shell represents the tomb from which Risen Christ emerges alive.

The tradition, however, has ancient origins dating back to the dawn of human history because it is considered a symbol of life and regeneration (because it contains the embryo), but also the mystery, as the sacred (failing corners symbolizes the continuity of life, then eternity).

For centuries, the egg was also associated with the spring as a symbol of the revival of nature and it is with this sense of rebirth that the egg became part of the Christian tradition to represent the rebirth of life after death and therefore the Resurrection Christ.

In symbolism, coloured eggs with bright colours remembers the colours of spring and the sunlight. Those coloured dark red are the symbol of Christ's blood.

THE DOVE

During Easter it is customary to give the dove, a sweet yeast dough which traditionally closes the Easter lunch.

The dove calls the episode of the great flood described in *Genesis*. There was a dove with an olive branch in its beak back from Noah to testify that the land was free from water and to proclaim that peace had come between God and Man, this meant the beginning of a new era for humanity. The dove becomes a symbol of peace. The dove became a symbol of the Italian Easter sweet in the early decades of the twentieth century when the company launched a Milanese MOTTA sweet like a cake with raisins and candied fruit, the shape of a dove with a crisp coating of frosting and almonds.

THE EASTER RABBIT

Among the popular Easter symbols you can see a nice bunny who brings eggs in shop windows. His presence recalls the hare, from the earliest times of Christianity, It was adopted as symbol of Christ.

THE LAMB

The innocent lamb represents the body of Jesus crucified, stabbed by a spear. Jesus is presented as the "Lamb of God" that is offered in sacrifice for man's salvation. During Easter time families prepare a typical sweet almond-shaped lamb with a red banner, a sign of victory: the Christ Risen who has conquered death!

FISH

It is made with almond paste cake with another characteristic shape of the fish. In early Christian iconography the fish is one of the most ancient signs and is the symbolic representation of Jesus because the letters of the greek word "fish" that are J-CH-TH-Y'-S (ΙΧΘΥΣ) are also the initials of: *Jesoùs Christòs Theou Yiòs Soter*, which means: Jesus Christ Son of God Savior.

This formula probably corresponded to a primordial profession of faith in the Church.

FOOD AND RECIPES

Italy has many different Easter culinary traditions, which change from region to region. They are typically very ancient recipes, prepared only during the Easter week. Traditional Easter meals vary from region to region, but eggs and roasted lamb are common elements everywhere.

Eggs represent life, fertility, and renewal, all of which are essential symbols of Easter. Dyed eggs grace many Easter tables, and eggs are often found in soups and in a traditional Easter pie (Torta Pasqualina).

Roasted lamb, as a symbol of birth and the Shepard, is a traditional main course. Bread has a special importance too because it recalls the episode of the Last Supper when Jesus broke bread and shared it with the Apostles, offering his body in sacrifice for all mankind

It is made with different methods, according to the area: : breads that contain cheese, breads that contain sausage or salami, breads that contain hard-boiled eggs. A traditional Apulian sweet typical of Bari and Gargano area , is the "scarcella" (or "squarcella). This is a cake covered with icing sugar and decorated with coloured confetti.

The "puddhricasciu" and "panareddhra" are very similar to Sicilian "cuddhrura", a big cake that can be prepared in various forms (cock, baby, basket, heart, lamb, fish, bell) decorated with several crosses of pasta (mesh type) and boiled eggs.

A typical dessert of Campania is the famous "pastiera" made from grain previously softened and then cooked in milk and sugar, ricotta, eggs, milk, essence of oranges. The cake seems to have pagan origins.

Beautifully decorated chocolate eggs are a traditional Easter treat and gift! Chocolate eggs are a symbol of Easter even for non religious people. Everybody gets an egg for their dear ones. Most chocolate eggs are industry produced. Every serious cake shop produces finely hand made eggs, using the best chocolate they can get. Inside each egg a small gift is hidden.

The official Easter cake is the Eastern Dove (Colomba) that represents peace.

EASTER MONDAY

It is the day after Easter, also known as the Monday meeting because it recalls the angel with the women on the Tomb of Christ found empty.

On Easter Monday, some cities hold dances, free concerts, or unusual games often involving eggs. In the Umbrian hill town of Panicale, cheese is the star.

Ruzzolone is played by rolling huge wheels of cheese, weighing about 4 kilos, around the village walls. The object is to get your cheese around the course using the fewest number of strokes. Following the cheese contest, there is a band in the piazza and of course, wine.. Easter Monday is a time to gather with friends and have fun.

We discovered many Easter customs and traditions in Italy, but above all we understand that Easter is the feast of joy and rebirth , the victory of life over death and the hope of a future that will never end.



PÂQUES
EN
FRANCE



PÂQUES

La fête chrétienne de Pâques est la célébration de la résurrection de Jésus-Christ. Durant les premiers temps de la chrétienté la Pâques chrétienne coïncidait avec la Pâques juive. A cette époque le calendrier utilisé pour fixer la date de Pâques était le calendrier juif ou babylonien. La résurrection de Jésus-Christ tombait le 14^{ème} jour du mois de Nisan en même temps que Pessah, la Pâque juive.

L'établissement de la date de Pâques a donné lieu à de nombreuses discussions avant d'être fixé au dimanche qui suit le 14^{ème} jour de la lune qui commence en Mars.

Pâques est donc au plus tôt le 22 Mars et au plus tard le 25 Avril.



Câreme

Les préparatifs de Pâques commencent dès la fin du Mardi gras avec le mercredi des Cendres qui marque le début du Carême. Le mercredi des Cendres, les chrétiens se rendent à l'église pour la distribution des Cendres. C'est un jour d'examen de conscience et de repentir. Les Cendres rappelle que l'homme est poussière et redeviendra poussière.

Le Carême était strictement observé jusqu'au début du 20ème siècle. Durant 40 jours, équivalents aux 40 jours passés par Jésus-Christ dans le désert, les chrétiens suivent un demi-jeûne durant lequel certains aliments riches et carnés sont interdits. La période du Carême s'apparente à un temps de purification et d'élévation spirituelle pour se préparer à la résurrection de Jésus-Christ.



Le déroulement du Carême



Le **Carême** comprend plusieurs temps importants :

- Le Mercredi des Cendres
 - La Mi-Carême
 - Les Rameaux
 - La semaine Sainte

Le **Mercredi des Cendres** est le premier jour du **Carême**, le lendemain du Carnaval. Le jour des cendres, le prêtre trace une croix à la cendre des Rameaux de l'année précédente sur le front des croyants en signe de pénitence.

La **Mi-Carême** tombe le jeudi de la troisième semaine du **Carême**, ce jour les réjouissances sont permises et les interdits alimentaires sont levés. Traditionnellement la Mi-Carême est un jour de crêpes et de beignets.

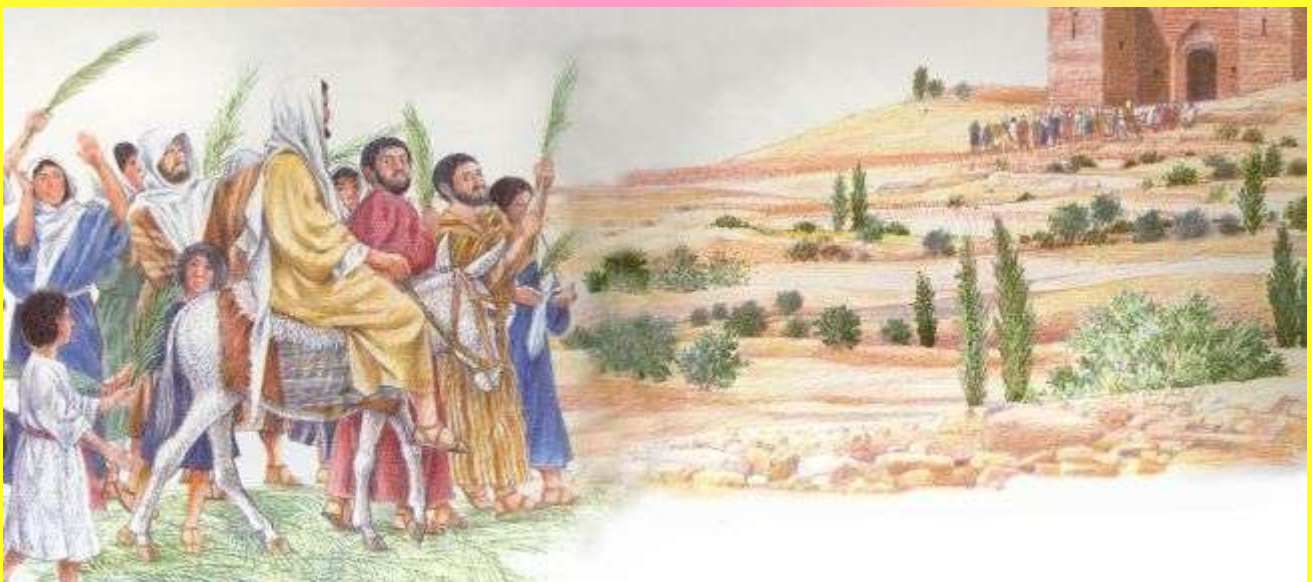
Après la **mi-Carême** et la semaine Sainte se trouvent les rameaux.

Dimanche des Rameaux

Le dimanche des Rameaux précède Pâques. Il célèbre l'entrée de Jésus à Jérusalem. Il est sur un âne. La foule l'acclame en brandissant des rameaux et en criant : Hosanna !

Les Évangiles synoptiques évoquent seulement des rameaux. L'Évangile de Jean est plus précis : selon Jean, ce sont des rameaux de palmiers, des palmes :
rami palmarum en latin.

C'est pourquoi dans d'autres pays, on parle de dimanche des Palmes. De même, en latin, la langue officielle de l'église catholique, ce jour porte le nom de Dominica in Palmis.



L'agneau pascal



L'agneau est l'un des symboles de Pâques, la première référence est bien entendu la référence biblique "Abraham sacrifiant un agneau à la place de son fils"

Dans la religion chrétienne comme dans la religion juive, l'agneau à une place très importante et symbolique. Si l'agneau est très important dans les deux religions il n'a pas du tout la même signification.

Dans la religion juive, l'agneau de Pâques rappelle la traversée de la Mer Rouge tandis que dans la religion chrétienne il symbolise le Christ ressuscité.

L'agneau symbole de Pâques dans la religion chrétienne, est l'une des représentations de Jésus-Christ. L'agneau pascal symbolise parfaitement les notions d'innocence et d'obéissance. L'agneau pascal est la représentation symbolique du sacrifice fait par Abraham à la demande de Dieu. L'agneau représente sa soumission à la volonté de Dieu puisqu'il était prêt à sacrifier son propre fils si Dieu l'exigeait. L'agneau est traditionnellement invité à la table de Pâques puisqu'il est le souvenir de ce sacrifice et de cette obéissance à Dieu. Selon les pays et les traditions chrétiennes, la consommation de l'agneau est plus ou moins importante et plus ou moins intégrée au rituel de Pâques.

Dans les deux religions, l'agneau est présent sur la table du repas de la fête de Pâques.



Oeuf en chocolat et lapin de Pâques



Il semble que la coutume d'offrir des oeufs ou des lapins en chocolat est d'origine commerciale. Après les privations du carême, les gens ont trouvée l'idée intéressante, de pouvoir se sucrer le bec après s'être privé de sucrerie en guise de sacrifice durant toute cette période.

Ce n'est qu'au XVIIIe siècle, en France, qu'on décide de vider un oeuf frais et de le remplir de chocolat. Puis vinrent les moules, les décorations et la tradition gourmande.

La tradition du lapin en chocolat a suivi un long processus d'évolution apporté par les anciens Teutons qui croyaient fermement qu'à Pâques, c'était au tour des lapins de couvrir les oeufs. L'association lapin - Pâques - chocolat découle de cette croyance populaire.



JOYEUSES PÂQUES



Pâques c'est la grande fête de la renaissance à la vie et de la victoire de celle-ci sur la mort.
Quand la fête de Pâques arrive, l'hiver est bien terminé.

En **France** la **tradition** veut que les cloches sonnent chaque jour de l'année pour inviter les fidèles à assister à la messe.

Sauf au moment de Pâques, où elles sont silencieuses du Jeudi au Samedi saint. Elles en profitent pour partir à Rome se faire bénir et elles rapportent des oeufs de toutes sortes aux enfants sages !

En traversant la **France** elles perdent oeufs, poules, poussins et lapins en chocolat à la plus grande joie des enfants qui dès midi passé partent à la chasse aux oeufs !



TABLE DE PÂQUES

Le repas traditionnel de Pâques fait toujours la part belle à l'agneau, que l'on mange généralement sous la forme d'un superbe gigot accompagné de haricots blancs. Le gigot d'agneau peut se cuisiner de diverses manières : en croûte de sel, rôti dans un jus de thym ou de romarin... Ce n'est pas un hasard si l'agneau est la viande par excellence du menu de Pâques, car l'agneau, par son innocence et son obéissance, rappelle le sacrifice du Christ. Par ailleurs, c'est à cette saison que l'agneau est disponible et savoureux. Le fin du fin étant l'agneau de pré salé, à la saveur inimitable.

Pour présenter ces mets délicieux, la décoration de la table se doit d'être soignée.

Réalisez le décor de votre table sur le thème du printemps (jeunes branchages, premières fleurs, mousse...) ou sur le thème de Pâques (oeufs de poule vidés et peints, bougies en forme de poule, de cloche, etc...).



LE LUNDI DE PÂQUES

Le lundi de Pâques est un jour férié

Les Évangiles ne rapportent aucun événement particulier pour le lundi de Pâques. Pourtant, la tradition chrétienne en a fait un jour férié. La fête de Pâques se déroulait, depuis le 11^{ème} siècle, pendant toute la semaine qui suivait. Cette semaine de l'octave de Pâques était fériée. Depuis le concordat en France, seul le lundi de Pâques est resté férié. Actuellement, le lundi de Pâques est férié dans l'ensemble des pays d'Europe, sauf en Russie.

Le lundi de Pâques n'est pas une fête liturgique

Depuis le nouvel ordo liturgique de Paul VI, le lundi de Pâques n'est plus solennisé. Ce n'est pas une fête liturgique. La semaine qui suit la fête de Pâques est au point de vue liturgique l'octave de Pâques qui l'emporte sur toute autre fête. Le dimanche huit jours après Pâques était appelé, avant la réforme liturgique de Paul VI, "dimanche in albis" parce que jadis les nouveaux baptisés déposaient leur vêtements blancs. Jean Paul II en a fait le dimanche de la Miséricorde Divine le 30 avril 2000 à l'occasion de la canonisation de Sœur Faustine.

Coutumes folkloriques en France

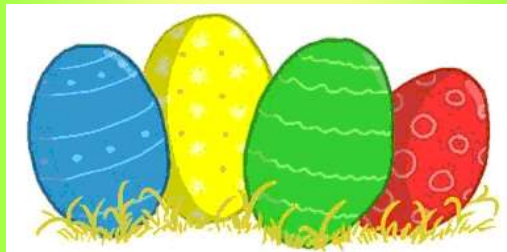
En France, il y a des traditions particulières pour le lundi de Pâques. A Bessières (Haute Garonne) depuis 1973 et ailleurs dans le sud ouest comme à Mazerès en Ariège, le Lundi de Pâques, les chevaliers de la Confrérie Mondiale de l'Omelette Géante et Pascale confectionnent dans une poêle de 400 kg en tôle d'acier de 4 m de diamètre une omelette de 15 000 œufs, une omelette parfaitement onctueuse



Poésies

C'ÉTAIT PÂQUES

C'était Pâques le matin
J'ai trouvé dans mon jardin
Des oeufs verts comme les prés
Des oeufs jaunes comme le soleil
Des oeufs rouges comme les tulips





EN ALLANT CHERCHER MON PAIN

En allant chercher mon pain,
Je rencontre 3 lapins
Je les mets dans mon panier
Ils se mettent à grignoter
Je les mets dans mon placard
Ils me mangent tout mon lard
Je les mets au coin du feu
Ils s'endorment tout heureux.





Un bel oeuf doré

Un bel oeuf doré, je viens de trouver,
Au milieu du jardin, tout près du jasmin,
Un bel oeuf doré, je viens de trouver,
Je me demande bien qui a pu l'apporter.

P't être un p'tit lapin, au doux poil tout blanc,
Me disait mon papa en riant tout bas,
P't être un p'tit lapin, au doux poil tout blanc,
Mais moi je suis certain que c'était ma maman



Chansons

Frère Jacques



Frère Jacques, frère Jacques
Dormez-vous, dormez-vous?
Sonnez-les matines, sonnez-les matines
Dig, ding, dong, dig, ding, dong.



Une poule sur un mur

Une poule sur un mur
Qui picore du pain dur
Picoti, picota
Lève la queue et puis s'en va



LES OEUFS DE PÂQUES



Ingredients

Du chocolat blanc, au lait ou noir...

Préparation

Je fais fondre le chocolat dans ma chocolatière, je garni chaque moule d'une couche de chocolat fondu, en faisant attention à ce que toute la paroi soit couverte. J'ôte l'excédent de chocolat, si besoin, en le faisant couler dans la chocolatière. Je laisse le moule sur mon plan de travail. Quand le chocolat est durci, je met une seconde couche de chocolat dans chaque moule et je réserve au frais pendant environ 20 mn. Chaque oeuf doit avoir une épaisseur de 2 à 3 mn.

Je démoule ensuite avec précaution.

Pour assembler les oeufs:

Je fais chauffer une poêle vide quelques secondes. Quand elle est chaude, j'ôte du feu. Je place alors deux moitiés d'oeufs sur la poêle (une seconde ou deux suffisent). Je garnis les oeufs (oeufs en sucre, en nougatine, fritures maison) et j'assemble. Je lisse au doigt la jointure et les conserve à l'abri de la lumière, dans une boîte (mais pas au frais!).



CLOCHE DE PÂQUES



Ingrédients

Génoise:

4 œufs
120 g de sucre
120 g de farine

Garniture:

2 cuil. à soupe de confiture d'abricot
200 g de crème fleurette
100 g de chocolat de couverture noire

Décor:

sucre glace
cacao
fruits frais

Préparation

Préparer tous les ingrédients.



Réaliser une gênoise de préférence dans un moule carré.



La cuire...



...et la laisser refroidir.



Découper une cloche dans la gênoise.



...et la verser sur le chocolat coupé en morceaux.



Laisser refroidir à température ambiante.



Liquéfier la confiture en la chauffant légèrement. Badigeonner la surface de la cloche à la confiture d'abricot.



Laisser sêcher quelques instants.



Fouetter la ganache refroidie...



...afin que celle-ci s'aère, palisse et devienne mousseuse.



À la poche à douille, dresser la ganache en spirale.



Juste avant de servir, saupoudrer la surface de sucre glace.



Décorer avec des fruits frais.



L'AGNEAU ALSACIEN EN SUCRE

Ingrédients

500 g de farine



250 g de beurre



1 / 2 L de lait



2 œufs



25 g de levure de boulanger



250 g de sucre



1 pincée de sel

un peu de kirsch

sucre glace

Préparation

Faire fondre le beurre dans le lait chaud. Délayer peu à peu la farine avec le lait refroidi. Ajouter les œufs battus, le sucre, le sel et le kirsch et la levure de boulanger délayée dans un peu de lait froid. Travailler le mélange à la main jusqu'à ce qu'il se détache. Mettre dans une moitié du moule préalablement huilé, refermer le moule. Laisser lever deux heures, puis faire cuire à four moyen pendant 45 minutes. Une fois cuit, saupoudrer l'agneau de sucre glace. L'agneau tient aussi place sur les tables russes et polonaises ; en beurre ou en sucre dur, il a été béni à l'église et sera conservé, celui de sucre en tout cas, jusqu'à l'année suivante.







Easter

in

Great

Britain



EASTER



Easter is an important festival in Britain.

Easter is the oldest and the most important Christian Festival, the celebration of the death and coming to life again of Jesus Christ. For Christians, the dawn of Easter Sunday with its message of new life is the high point of the Christian year.

Originally Easter was called Pascha after the Hebrew word for Passover, a Jewish festival that happens at this time of year. It was replaced by Easter, a word which is believed to have evolved from Eostre, the name of the Anglo-Saxon goddess of fertility and springtime. The date of Easter is determined, like its pagan festival equivalent, by the lunar calendar.



Easter
time



Easter occurs at a different time each year. It is observed on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. This means that the festival can occur on any Sunday between March 22 and April 25. Not only is Easter the end of the winter it is also the end of Lent, traditionally a time of fasting in the Christian calendar.

It is therefore often a time of fun and celebration.



EASTER Symbols

Many of the symbols and tradition at Easter are connected with renewal, birth, good luck and fertility.



Palms

The week of Easter begins on Palm Sunday.

Palm branches- Represents when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday and people waved palm branches, welcoming him.

Today, on Palm Sunday, Christians carry palm branches in parades, and make them into crosses and garlands to decorate the Church.



The Cross

Of course a cross, often on a hill, is a symbol of this Christian festival .
When Jesus was crucified, the cross became a symbol of suffering.
Then with the Resurrection, Christians saw it as a symbol of victory over death.



The Lamb

The lamb was adopted from the lamb sacrificed at Jewish Passover and for Christians it came to signify Christ's death on the cross.



The Candle

Candles - Symbolize Jesus, "the light of the world".



The Butterfly

The Butterfly is one of the significant symbols of Easter. Its whole life cycle is meant to symbolize the life of Jesus Christ. The first stage, is the caterpillar, which stands for His life on Earth. Second phase begins from the cocoon stage, portraying the crucifixion and burial of Jesus. The third and final stage is the butterfly, representing His raising from the dead in a glorified body and peace.



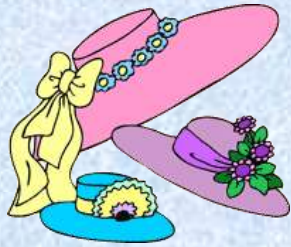
Easter Eggs

Eggs are symbols of spring and new life.



Easter Bunny

Due to their fecund nature, Rabbits are always symbol of fertility. Easter bunny- The rabbit, or hare, was a symbol of abundant new life in ancient times, and reminds us of spring and new life.



New hats

Easter hats & wearing new clothes for Easter- Symbolizes new life offered through the death and resurrection of Jesus.



Dressing Up For Easter

Easter was once a traditional day for getting married, that may be why people dress up for Easter.

Women wear Easter bonnets, decorated with flowers and ribbons. Even today in Battersea in London there is a special Easter Parade, where hand-made bonnets are shown off.



Morris dancing

Morris dancing is a traditional English form of folk dance. In the dance men dress up in costumes with hats and ribbons and bells around their ankles. They dance through the streets and one man often carries an inflated pig's bladder on the end of a stick. He will run up to young women in the street and hit them over the head with the pig's bladder, this is supposed to be lucky (men)!

THE HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday

The Sunday before Easter is known as Palm Sunday. It celebrates Jesus' triumphal arrival in Jerusalem .

Holy Thursday

Last Supper and the betrayal by Judas. During the meal Jesus took bread and wine and shared them with his disciples.

Good Friday

The arrest, trial, crucifixion, death and burial of Jesus Christ. On Good Friday, Christians remember the day when Jesus was crucified on a cross.

Holy Saturday

The Sabbath on which Jesus rested in the grave. Holy Saturday is also known as Easter Even and the Great Sabbath.



PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday is a Christian moveable feast which always falls on the Sunday before Easter Sunday. The feast commemorates the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem in the days before his Passion. It is also called Passion Sunday or Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion.

In many Christian churches, Palm Sunday is marked by the distribution of palm leaves (often tied into crosses) to the assembled worshipers.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday, also known as **Holy Thursday**, **Great and Holy Thursday**, and **Thursday of Mysteries**, is the Christian feast or holy day falling on the Thursday before Easter that commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles. The Mass of the Lord's Supper initiates the Easter Triduum, the three days of Friday, Saturday and Sunday that commemorate the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. It is normally celebrated in the evening.

According to a common theory, the English word *Maundy* in that name for the day is derived through Middle English, and Old French *mandé*, from the Latin *mandatum*.



GOOD FRIDAY

On Good Friday, Christians remember the day when Jesus was crucified on a cross.

Good Friday is the Friday before Easter Sunday (Easter Day).

The date of Good Friday changes every year.

Good Friday today is still a public holiday in much of the UK.

Some Christians fast (go without food) on Good Friday.

Some Christians take part in a procession of witness, carrying a cross through the streets and then into church.

Many churches hold a special service. This may be a communion service in the evening or a time of prayer during the day, especially around 3 o'clock as that is about the time of day when Jesus died.

Many Churches hold services lasting three hours. They may celebrate the Stations of the Cross, or take part in Passion plays and dramatic readings.

Churches are not decorated on Good Friday. In some churches, pictures and statues are covered over. It is seen as a time of mourning.



HOLY SATURDAY



Holy Saturday (Latin: *Sabbatum Sanctum*) is the day before Easter and the last day of Holy Week, in which Christians prepare for Easter. This day commemorates the day that Jesus Christ's body lay in the tomb.

Holy Saturday is not a national bank holiday in the United Kingdom.

Many Christians in the United Kingdom participate in an Easter vigil service on Holy Saturday to mark the end of the Lent period before celebrating Easter. They remember Holy Saturday as the day when Jesus lay in his tomb. Many services are held in the evening of Holy Saturday, where candles are lit to proclaim Jesus Christ's rising. Some church services are held in total darkness before the candles are lit. Some churches have baptisms, renewal of baptismal vows, and confirmations on Holy Saturday.

Many families prepare Easter eggs on the Saturday before Easter. Children decorate eggs with paint, crayon, water colours, stickers and other material. These eggs are often placed in Easter baskets.



EASTER SUNDAY

Christians gather together on Easter Sunday for a **Sunrise Service**. This service takes place on a hill side so everyone can see the sun rise.

Some Christians take part in an Easter vigil, lighting a new fire outside the church early Sunday morning. The **Paschal candle**, decorated with studs to celebrate Christ's wounds, may be lit from the fire and carried into the church where it is used to light the candles of the worshippers. The Easter Eucharist is particularly joyful service. It is a popular time for baptisms and renewal of baptism vows.

Some churches have an **Easter Garden**. A stone is placed across the mouth of a tomb before Easter, then rolled away on Easter morning.

The traditional Easter gift is a chocolate egg.





Easter Eggs

Easter is an important festival in Britain. Children like Easter because they get lots of coloured Easter eggs. Some families decorate eggs for breakfast on Easter Sunday.



Easter eggs



The first eggs given at Easter were birds eggs. These eggs were painted in bright colours to give them further meaning as a gift.

As chocolate became more wide spread in the 20th Century, a chocolate version of the traditional painted egg was developed.

Chocolate eggs are given to children. The eggs are either hollow or have a filling, and are usually covered with brightly coloured silver paper.



Easter egg hunt

On Easter Sunday many families have an Easter egg hunt. Parents hide decorated eggs in the garden and children believe that a rabbit lives them and they play trying to find them.



The Easter Bunny

The Easter Bunny is not a modern invention.
This is a symbol originated with the pagan festival of Eastre.



The goddess, Eastre , was worshipped by the Anglo-Saxons through her earthly symbol , the rabbit.



Exchanging greeting cards for Easter is very popular in Great Britain.

This tradition of gifting friends and relatives with Easter cards is a back dated practice.

There are beautiful animated bunny cards and Easter egg cards

There are also Easter cards with religious messages and images.

On the other hand, there are cute colorful bunny cards especially meant to be exchanged among children.







Hot Cross Buns



Hot cross buns, now eaten throughout the Easter season, were first baked in England to be served on Good Friday.

These small, lightly sweet yeast buns contain raisins or currants and sometimes chopped candied fruit.

Before baking, a cross is slashed in the top of the bun. After baking, a confectioners' sugar icing is used to fill the cross.

The Greeks and Egyptians ate small cakes or buns in honour of the respective goddesses that they worshipped. Buns marked with a cross were eaten by the Saxons to honour their goddess Eostre - it is thought the bun represented the moon and the cross the moon's quarters. To Christians, the cross symbolises the crucifixion.

GOOD FRIDAY SUPERSTITIONS



Superstitions relating to Good Friday:

- ✦ A child born on Good Friday and baptised on Easter Sunday has the gift of healing.
- ✦ Many fishermen will not set out for catch on Good Friday.
- ✦ Bread or cakes baked on this day will not go mouldy.
- ✦ Eggs laid on Good Friday will never go bad.
- ✦ Hot cross buns baked on Good Friday were supposed to have magical powers.
- ✦ Having a hair cut on Good Friday will prevent toothaches the rest of the year.

MORRIS DANCE

In many parts of England, professional troupes of dancers perform Morris Dance on Easter Sunday. These troupes of dancers, almost exclusively male, perform old spring dances to frighten away the veil spirits of winter.

The dancers clad themselves in beautiful white shorts, red sashes, black trousers and straw hats, with lots of flowers and streamers. Red and green ribbons and little bells are tied onto the dancers, to complete the look.



in 1600



Easter Monday

Easter Monday is a bank holiday in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, but not in Scotland. In Scotland, Easter Monday is a normal Monday.

The tradition of having a holiday on the Monday after Easter stems from the medieval festival of Hocktide. This was a two day festival on Monday and Tuesday after Easter, originating in the eleventh century.

A story says that a man had to carry a woman for a certain distance or lift her up a given number of times in return for a kiss. Now Hocktide is only celebrated in the town of Hungerford in Berkshire and the main events are on the Tuesday after Easter.

On Easter Monday some people visit family or friends, who live some distance away. For other people, it is just a welcome day off to enjoy the spring weather or work on their garden or home improvements.

In some places, there are egg rolling competitions, Easter bonnet parades, displays of traditional Morris dancing fairs or special sports matches. In Biddenden, Kent, special cakes are distributed in memory of conjoined twins born in 1100, who lived to the age of 34.



Egg Rolling

Egg Rolling is a very old traditional game. On Easter Monday players roll coloured eggs down a hill hoping that they do not break before getting to the bottom.



EASTER RECIPES



Simnel cake

Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday. For many Christians, this is a period of fasting and repentance in preparation for Easter, culminating in a feast of seasonal and symbolic foods.

In the late 17th century, girls in service brought a rich fruit cake called simnel cake home to their mothers on the fourth Sunday of Lent.

The cake was enriched with marzipan and decorated with 11 marzipan balls representing the 12 apostles minus Judas, who betrayed Christ.

Hot Cross Buns



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PANCAKE

You need:



4 eggs



1 cup flour



1 cup milk



1 tbsp sugar



Salt and



butter



a bowl



a pan

Mix the flour, milk, eggs, sugar and salt in the bowl.



Melt a little butter in the pan and fry the pancakes until they are brown.



Eat the pancakes with the sugar or lemon juice.



FOOD ON EASTER DAY

Easter day, like Christmas day, is also associated with special food.

Boiled eggs are traditionally served at breakfast, then Easter cards and gifts may be exchanged.

Roast lamb, which is the main dish at Jewish Passover, is the traditional meat for the main meal on Easter Day. It is served with mint sauce and vegetables.

The traditional Easter pudding is **custard tarts** sprinkled with currants and flat **Easter biscuits**.

Easter Biscuits are sometimes called "Cakes", and are eaten on Easter Sunday. They contain spices, currants and sometimes grated lemon rind.

Simnel cake is baked for tea. The Simnel cake is a rich fruitcake covered with a thick layer of almond paste (marzipan). A layer of marzipan is also traditionally baked into the middle of the cake.



EASTER RHYMES



RHYME

*"Oh! here comes Peter
Cottontail,
Hoppin' down the bunny trail,
Hippity hoppity
Happy Easter day"*



Easter Bunny Chant



Easter Bunny is on his way
Bringing eggs to hide away.

Hopping here, Hopping there,
He can hide them everywhere.

"Be so kind my bunny dear"
Hide my eggs very near ,
so I can find them right away
and be happy on Easter day!

Hot Cross Buns

RHYME



An old rhyme was often sung by children awaiting their sugary treat:

"Hot cross buns,
hot cross buns,
one a penny, two a penny,
hot cross buns.

If you do not like them,
give them to your sons,
one a penny, two a penny,
hot cross buns."

"A BUNNY", A FINGERPLAY RHYME



A Bunny is a fingerplay you can do at Easter time or throughout the year.

A Bunny

Once there was a bunny.
(Make a fist with your left hand and extend two fingers for ears)

And a green, green cabbage head...
(Make a fist with your right hand)

"I think I'll have some breakfast," the little bunny said.
(Move bunny toward cabbage head)

So he nibbled and he nibbled.
(Wiggle fingers on left hand)

Then he turned around to say,
"I think this is the time I should be hopping on my way!"
(Make hopping movements with left hand)



EASTER POEM

Easter Day Easter Day

Bring me good luck.

Good luck to me

Good luck to you

Good luck to everyone I see.



EASTER SONGS

To commemorate Easter festival, people sing special Easter songs.

Children dance to the tunes of Easter songs. In churches,
men and women sing Easter hymns.

As a part of Easter tradition, people enjoy the soothing melodious songs while
having their delicious Easter feast. Easter season also gives a warm welcome
to the refreshing springtime.

Thus, songs on the theme of spring can also be heard at Easter time.



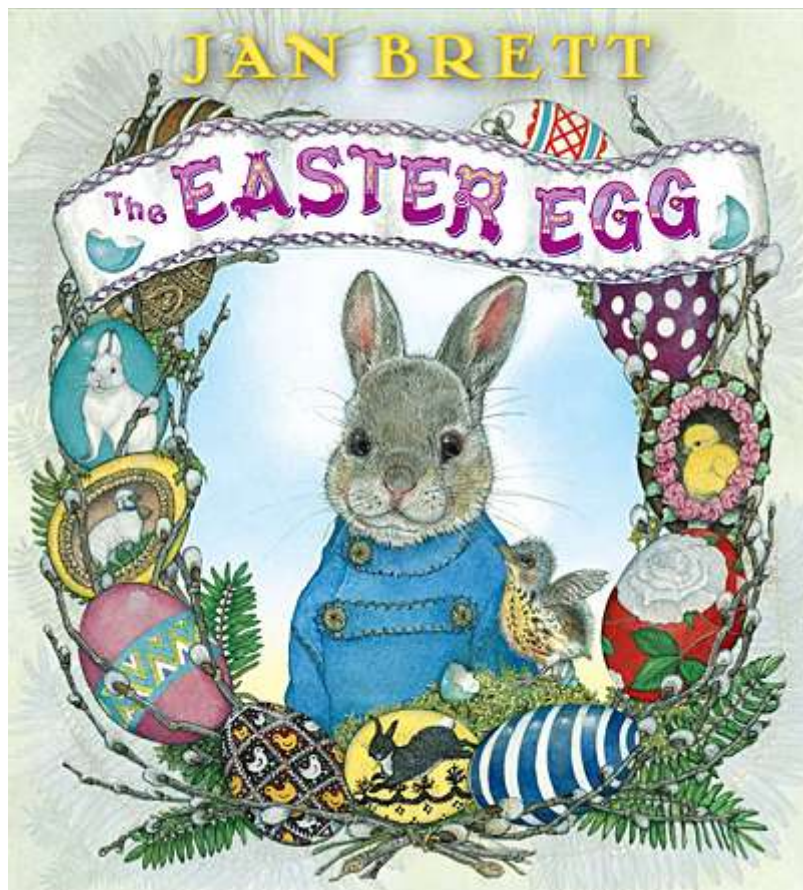
SONG

There's a story quite funny,
About a toy bunny,
And the wonderful things she can do:
Every bright Easter morning,
Without warning,
She colors eggs, red, green, or blue.

Some she covers with spots,
Some with quaint little dots,
And some with strange mixed colors, too
Red and green, blue and yellow,
But each unlike his fellow
Are eggs of every hue.

.....





Written and illustrated by [Jan Brett](#)



IT'S SPRING!

Time for rabbits to decorate eggs for the Easter Rabbit. This year Hoppi is old enough to join in, and if he can just make the winning egg, he will be the one to help the Easter Rabbit on Easter. But Hoppi hasn't decided what kind of egg to make. And as he hops along and sees one fantastic egg after another, he begins to wonder how he can compete.

Hoppi goes into the woods to think about his egg, and just when he figures out that he only has to make the best egg he can, his plans take a most unexpected turn.

Jan Brett's lovable bunny hero and her remarkable Easter Rabbit will enchant readers as the pore over exquisite illustrations filled with dazzling eggs and their gifted makers - Flora Bunny, Aunt Sassyfrass, Hans Vanderabbit and others.

An unforgettable Easter story for all ages!





Easter

traditions

in Hungary

Easter

Easter is the feast of Jesus Christ's resurrection. It's a movable feast. It is always between the 22nd March and the 25th April and is the first Sunday after the first full moon of the spring equinox. Before Easter Sunday religious people don't eat meat (this is called fast), only on Sunday.

The actual religious activities in Hungary relating to Easter begin with Lent, the Great Fast. During Lent it is forbidden to eat any meat, therefore the day before Ash Wednesday is called Meat Abandoning Tuesday in Hungarian.

Easter Monday:

On the second day of Easter (called Easter Monday) men usually visit women in elegant clothes and water them with perfume, so they will not "wither" in that year. In the past, they used to get painted eggs for it, but nowadays they get money for it. In the countryside it is still a tradition that men water women with a bucket of water reciting a little rhyme:

Good day, good day, my lily, I water you to keep you from withering, or Water for your health, water for your home, water for your land, here's water, water! Don't shriek and cry and run away: It's good for you on Dyngus day.

The dousing was supposed to make girls good future wives with many children.

The History of Easter



Easter is the most important annual religious feast in the Christian liturgical year. According to Christian scripture, Jesus was resurrected from the death on the third day after his crucifixion. Some Christians celebrate this resurrection on Easter Day or Easter Sunday (also Resurrection Day or Resurrection Sunday), two days after Good Friday and three days after Maundy Thursday. The chronology of his death and resurrection is variously interpreted to be between AD 26 and AD 36. Easter also refers to the season of the church year called Eastertide or the Easter Season. Traditionally the Easter Season lasted for the forty days from Easter Day until Ascension Day but now officially lasts for the fifty days until Pentecost. The first week of the Easter Season is known as Easter Week or the Octave of Easter. Easter also marks the end of Lent, a season of fasting, prayer, and penance. Easter is a moveable feast, meaning it is not fixed in relation to the civil calendar. The First Council of Nicaea established the date of Easter as the first Sunday after the full moon (the Paschal Full Moon) following the vernal equinox. Ecclesiastically, the equinox is reckoned to be on March 21 (regardless of the astronomically correct date), and the "Full Moon" is not necessarily the astronomically correct date. The date of Easter therefore varies between March 22 and April 25. Eastern Christianity bases its

calculations on the Julian Calendar whose March 21 corresponds, during the twenty-first century, to April 3 in the Gregorian Calendar, in which calendar their celebration of Easter therefore varies between April 4 and May 8. Easter is linked to the Jewish Passover not only for much of its symbolism but also for its position in the calendar. In most European languages the feast called Easter in English is termed by the words for Passover in those languages and in the older English versions of the Bible the term Easter was the term used to translate Passover. Relatively newer elements such as the Easter Bunny and Easter egg hunts have become part of the holiday's modern celebrations, and those aspects are often celebrated by many Christians and non-Christians alike. There are also some Christian denominations who do not celebrate Easter.

Easter eggs

Easter eggs are specially decorated eggs given to celebrate the Easter holiday or springtime. The egg was a symbol of the rebirth of the Earth in Pagan celebrations of spring. In the oldest tradition dyed or painted chicken eggs were used but in the modern custom they are substituted with chocolate eggs. The Easter Bunny is supposed to hide the eggs for the children to find them on Easter Monday morning. They are generally put in a basket filled with real or artificial straw that looks like a real bird's nest.



Egg Painting



Easter eggs are beautifully decorated in Hungary, for the ceremonious occasion. The traditional methods of painting the eggs are still followed by people in the country. The patterns range from simple to intricate, and make the egg look very attractive. The folk patterns are drawn on the eggs by using molten wax. Eggs are also painted. The painting liquid is traditionally made from onion skin, green walnut, wild pear or any other vegetable that yield natural color.



Lent

The Hungarians regard 'Lent' as the Great Fast for Easter. Since meat is forbidden during Lent, the day before Ash Wednesday is called 'húshagyókedd' which means 'meat abandoning Tuesday'. On Holy Saturday, which is called 'nagyszombat' in Hungary people take food baskets filled with milk-loaf, eggs and salt to the church to be blessed by the clergyman. Then the blessed food is eaten by believers, right after the resurrection ceremonies.



The tradition of Lent is the commemoration of those 40 days Jesus spent in the desert without food and drink. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Saturday. There are only a few strict days when people may eat only three times without any meat. Nowadays this tradition is fading.



Made by Adél Sifter class 7.a

Folk traditions around Easter

The time of the carnival from the day of Epiphany (January 6th) lasts until Ash Wednesday. And not only innumerable different folk habits but many interesting verses were born from this illustrious occasion on the folk's lip.

There are a lot of illustrious days during this period.

January 6th Epiphany – is the religious closing day of Christmas time.

January 22nd Vince' day - prophesying day: If Vince's day is rainy, the cellar will be full of good wine.

February 2nd Candlemas Blessed Virgin's day: candles are blessed this day and a candle-lighted procession is kept.

February 3rd Balázs's day: candles and apples are blessed and children use them for curing their sore throat.

February 24th Matthias's day: People could prophesy from the weather that day. If it was cold it meant good harvest, if it was windy few eggs were expected.

Fishermen thought that fish caught that day indicated lucky fishing all year. This fish was called Matthias's pike. "Matthias destroys ice if he finds but if not, he makes." It means if there is frost on 24 February the weather will get warmer but if the temperature is above zero, cold and snowy weather is expected after Matthias's day.

March 12th Gergely's day: the last day of the school's winter period. Students collected gifts for the schoolmaster and the school.

March 18-19-21 Sándor's, József's and Benedek's days: In some areas it was thought to be the first day of spring.



Made by Bernadett Gelegonya class 7.a

Easter Monday in Hungary

Easter is a 2-day holiday in Hungary. On Monday boys and men often visit all of their women relatives, friends, neighbours, even if they are not close friends. They ask for permission for sprinkling by reciting a little Easter poem. They sprinkle them with some perfume (or sometimes a bucket of cold water in the countryside). Women must be well-prepared they treat men with dessert and beverages and with hand-painted eggs. Children get chocolate bunnies and eggs (from the Bunny) and sometimes fruit, nuts etc. as well. They sometimes have to look for these presents in the garden or in their room. (Giving live bunnies is also frequent.) Mothers often prepare ham, eggs, and milk-loaf for dinner. Unique thing is that Easter Monday was a legal public holiday during the communist era as well.



Made by Anna Rajki class 7.a and Gábor Fodor class 7.c

A folk tale about Sándor, József and Benedek

There is a well known Hungarian weather saying: “Sándor, József, Benedek, bring the warm in sack.”

After the long winter Saint Peter sent warmth onto the Earth in a sack with Sándor.

Sándor went, ambled along, but got very tired under the weight of warmth.

He vainly dried his forehead, loosened his dresses but he remained thirsty and tired.

He looked round he noticed a pub next to the Milky Way. To have a little rest he put down his sack and began to have some drink. In the meantime his eyelids weighted with sleep and he fell asleep. Saint Peter had enough of the people’s prayer after warmth and sent József to look for Sándor. After searching and searching, he finally found Sándor in the tap.

After a glass of wine he forgot why he had been sent, too. “Go my son, Benedek and look after where these two rogues can be on the loose.” – Old Peter sent away the third one.

But the same happened to Benedek, like to the others because good wine was admeasured in that tap next to the Milky Way.

Saint Peter was waiting when the warmth would reach the Earth. He looked down from Heaven but saw the three pious wanderers nowhere. He became very angry and sent Mátyás to the Earth but this time he gave him a lash.

Mátyás found them very soon in the tap because they were having a very good time and they could be heard from a long distance. Mátyás went into the tap. When the three cheerful pals caught sight of Mátyás with a lash in his hand they left quickly and hurried onto the Earth with the sack of warmth. Suddenly the weather became warm and everything melted.

That is why Mátyás is called the ice breaker.

Balázs's Day

3 February



St. Blaise, who had studied philosophy in his youth, was a doctor in Sebaste in Armenia, the city of his birth, who exercised his art with miraculous ability, good-will, and piety. When the bishop of the city died, he was chosen to succeed him, with the acclamation of all the people. His holiness was manifested through many miracles: from all around, people came to him to find cures for their spirit and their body; even wild animals came in herds to receive his blessing. In 316, Agricola, the governor of Cappadocia and of Lessek Armenia, having arrived in Sebastea at the order of the emperor Licinius to kill the Christians, arrested the bishop. As he was being led to prison, a mother set her only son, choking to death of a fish-bone, at his feet, and the child was cured straight away. Regardless, the governor, unable to make

Blaise renounce his faith, beat him with a stick, ripped his flesh with iron combs, and beheaded him.

Crossed candles (left unlighted for safety reasons) are used for the blessing of throats on the feast day of St. Blaise, which falls on 3 February, the day after Candlemas according to the Catholic calendar of saints. Blaise is traditionally believed to intercede in cases of throat illnesses, especially for fish-bones stuck in the throat. The blessing is: "May God at the intercession of Saint Blaise preserve you from throat troubles and every other evil."



There is a saying in connection with this day:

"Come on, Blaise, a horse will be given by the God!" It means: set on bravely and God will help you!

Hungarian Folklore:

In Hungary on the feast day of St. Blaise schoolboys knocked into the neighborhood to take up gifts (grease, bacon, bean, and eggs) which later were handed over to their poor teacher.

Hungarian wine-growers pruned a vine-stock in each corner of their land thinking St. Blaise would save their grapevines and would drive away birds.

Made by Stella Kovács class 7.a

Busójárás Carnival in Mohács

Mohács has an important claim to fame: the winter festival called Busójárás. It takes place the week before Ash Wednesday and therefore coincides with Carnival and Mardi Gras. However, its roots are different; Busójárás is said to be a descendant of ancient Slavic pagan celebrations of the arrival of spring, and Mohács is the only place in Hungary where it is celebrated.

Busójárás begins the Friday before Ash Wednesday when bands of children known as "jankele" begin roaming the street, dressed in rags (or their mothers' old clothes) and wearing stocking masks over their faces. They carry stockings filled with sawdust and carry bags of flour, both of which are used to attack any woman or young girl who cannot outrun them! As with many Busójárás traditions, this has its roots in ancient fertility rites. The town usually hosts folk dancing and music performances the whole weekend but Sunday is the main celebration. The music and dancing start early and food and craft vendors line the streets. "Forralt bor" (hot mulled white wine) is the drink of choice, especially on a cold day.



The main attractions, of course, are the Busós: men dressed in sheepskin costumes and horned wooden masks. Traditionally, only Sokac (a Slavic ethnic group) men could don the Busó gear but now any Mohács man is allowed. The costume consists of black boots, off-white pantaloons, the large sheepskin jacket or vest, and the mask, which is attached to a sheepskin hood so that the whole head is covered. They usually carry large wooden noisemakers or cowbells and make quite a racket. The Busó masks are works of art hand carved and painted, each with a unique expression, topped with impressive-looking rams' horns. Master Craftsman Antal Englert is probably the best known of the Busó mask-makers and his work has been shown in exhibitions and sold throughout Europe.

At around noon, all the Busós make their way to the opposite bank of the Danube through Mohács Island. This is where the Hungarian legend comes in: it is said that after the defeat of the Hungarian army many soldiers and residents of Mohács fled to the "island" to escape from the Turks. After some time, they decided to attack and drive away the invaders from their home. The men put on big coats made of furry sheepskin and horned wooden masks painted with blood and stole across the Danube by night to surprise the Turks, who of course panicked and fled as soon as they saw these "devils" approaching. Therefore, every year the Busós cross the Danube in rowboats in honor of this legend. After the crossing, there is a Busó parade through the town to the main square, which is usually an unruly affair. The Busós, along with the jankeles, chase and harass women but all in a spirit of good fun. The celebrations wind down at nightfall with a huge bonfire in the main square. While Sunday's events attract ever-increasing numbers of tourists, the smaller celebrations on Tuesday are more for the locals. There is another Busó parade in the afternoon and a gathering in the main square for a final bonfire to close out the festival. A "coffin" containing a Busó costume is set on the fire and burned, symbolizing the "burning" of winter and the welcoming of spring.

Carnival

After Christmas time the carnival period begins in January. It lasts from Epiphany to Shrove Tuesday, the beginning of Lent. Carnival time was a period lack of work in villages so young couples married this time.



Since the middle Ages people masqueraded, wore masks, ate, drank and danced to excess. In villages the beginning of carnival period was the time of pig-killing. The family and friends worked together on pig-killing day, made sausages, blood puddings, ham and meat for the carnival time.

In Hungary farsang (carnival) celebrations were concentrated around the last three days of the farsang period, referred to as “farsang’s tail”. The tolling of the bells at midnight on Shrove Tuesday signaled the end of farsang and the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. For those three days, however, the world was turned upside down: men dressed up in costumes, sometimes even women’s clothes and paraded through the village chasing women and children, smearing their face with soot if they were caught. Women got together without the men to drink and make merry. Young men visited the spinning houses putting on skits: a mock wedding, a mock funeral or the battle between Carnival and Lent. The dramatic battle between Carnival and Lent was once a main feature of carnival celebrations all over Europe. The two costumed figures would battle each other once on January 6th when Carnival would win thus marking the beginning of carnival season, and once again on Shrove Tuesday, when Lent would win, marking the beginning of a time of fasting beginning the next morning.

The carnival festivals were generally more elegant in towns. This period was the season of balls. Nowadays there are balls again such as the Opera ball in Budapest for the high society. Fancy dress balls are often organized for children in schools. New tradition is the open-air Budapest carnival. The typical meal of carnival period is the doughnut.



Gergely's Day

12 March

Pope Gregory the Great was founder of schools and the creator of the Gregorian-singing. He is also known as Gregory the Dialogist in Eastern Orthodoxy because of his Dialogues. For this reason, English translations of Orthodox texts will sometimes list him as "Gregory Dialogus". He was the first of the popes to come from a monastic background. Gregory is a Doctor of the Church and one of the six Latin Fathers. He is considered a saint in the Roman Catholic Church. Immediately after his death, Gregory was canonized by popular acclaim.



Folklore:

The Gregory walking in Hungary was ordered in honor of him. It was not only collecting donations but also recruiting students to school. The costumes were often based on the ideas of teachers. The singing was connecting with the introduction of the participants in a funny way and with saying best wishes.

On Gregory's Day school children walked in the town or village and they knocked at every door. They were well dressed and they carried drums and flags. The purpose of this tradition was to make children, who didn't go to school, attend school. The groups of three and four children had a spokesman who went ahead and wished a 'Lucky Good Day' and



asked 'May I greet Saint Gregory's Day?' After the host agreed they all went in the house and sang standing around the table. After that the host offered seats to them. The children were given eggs, money and bacon but they could keep only the money and the teacher kept the eggs and others.

The origin of Busójárás

Locals explain the Carnival with two similar but different legends. According to the more popular legend, during the Turkish occupation of the territory the people of Mohács fled the town, and lived in the nearby swamps and woods to avoid Ottoman troops. One night, while they were sitting and talking around the fire, an old Šokci man appeared suddenly from nowhere, and said to them, "Don't be afraid: your lives will soon turn to good, and you'll return to your homes. Against that time, prepare for the battle, carve various weapons and scary masks for yourselves, and wait for a stormy night when a masked knight will come to you." He disappeared as suddenly as he had come. The refugees followed his orders, and some days later, on a stormy night, the knight arrived. He ordered them to put on their masks and go back to Mohács, making as much noise as possible. They followed his lead. The Turks were so frightened by the noise, the masks, and the storm in the night, that they thought demons were attacking them; and they ran away from the town before sunrise. In the older, less popular story, the *busós* are scaring away not the Turks but Winter itself. In any case, the locals have celebrated the Busójárás in early February every year ever since, hosting "guest Busó teams" from neighbouring countries and also from Poland.



Made by Szilvia Balogh class 7a



Vince's Day

22 January



Saint Vincent of Saragossa, also known as Vincent of Huesca or Vincent the Deacon, is the patron saint of Lisbon. His feast day is 22 January in the Roman Catholic Church, and 11 November in the Eastern Orthodox Churches. He was born at Huesca and martyred under the Emperor Diocletian around the year 304. His suffering did not end in his life. His funeral was rejected by the emperor and his body was put out onto the field. God sent a big raven to protect the body. Later it was put into a sack with stones and thrown into the sea but he was washed ashore. This continued until a Christian noticed it and buried it decently. His bones are in Valencia.

Folklore:

Vincent is the patron of vintners and vinegar-makers.

The grape-growers were watching the weather on Vince's Day. In case of beautiful, sunny weather a good vintage was prophesied, in opposite case a bad one.

In villages of Drávaszög a so called Vince-birch was cut and was put into water in a warm room. From the sprouted birch they prophesied for the next year's crop.

According to some farmers a lot of wine has to be drunk this day so that the vintage will be abundant.

In Topolya they prophesied for the expected corn crop from the weather on Vince's Day: the cobs will be as long as the hanging icicles are on the eaves.



Zsuzsanna's Day

19 February

Zsuzsanna's play

A dramatic play was popular with Upland miners. It was called Zsuzsanna's play. In the 1870s children walked from house to house to perform this play. In the story a wife is falsely accused by lecherous voyeurs. She bathed in her garden and two lusty elders



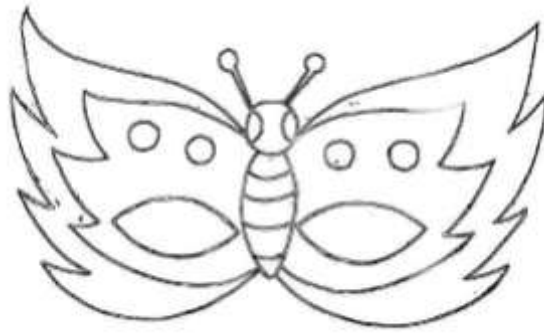
secretly observed her. They accosted her, threatening to claim that she was meeting a young man unless she agreed to make love to them. She refused to be blackmailed, and was arrested. But a young man named Daniel interrupted the proceedings. He separated the two men, they were questioned about details of what they

had seen, but disagreed about the tree under which Susanna supposedly met her lover. The first said they were under mastic but the second said they were under an oak tree. The great difference in size between mastic tree and an oak tree made the elders' lie plain to all the observers. The false accusers were put to death and virtue triumphs.

Masks

Masks are the most important accessories for a carnival. There are two types of them. The first one is a smaller piece it covers only the upper part of the face. The other type covers the full face. In our school a carnival is held every year where children wear their own handmade masks. Here you can find some usual and unusual masks for the Carnival.

Patterns:



Let's see how they are made?

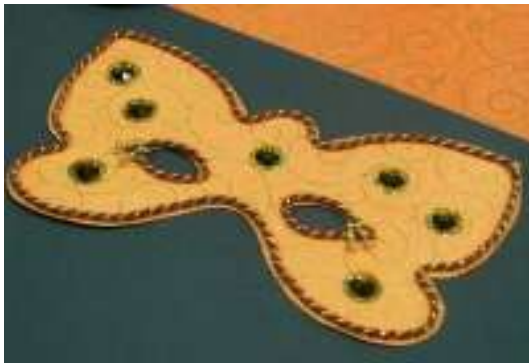
1. Mirror mask



Here we used a special mirror card board.
It's decorated by Perlen pen and tasseled wire.

In this case Perlen pen was used and tekla pearls were added too.

2. Renaissance mask



Stick coloured cotton paper to the card board and the cord to the edges.
You can decorate it with acrylic crystals and holographic film.
The blue mask: Small star-flitters and marabou feathers were added.

3. Butterfly



Draw and cut the pattern from card board and transparent paper.
Glue them to each other but not at the edges, so it even can flap.
The decorations of the wings are formed by sticking different colour and shape paper.

Have a nice try!