

EASTER

He is Risen...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vK-gRspsnBU&list=PLq49LmMGlxmCoUREtLk5nBYQZpE1WS3NJ>

The Paschal Candle




The Paschal Candle is the great Christian symbol of Easter. It is lit from the Easter fire at the start of the Easter vigil. Representing the risen Christ – the light of the world – the Paschal Candle is carried into the darkened church. Everyone in the congregation lights their small candle from this Easter candle.

The Light of Christ

The light of God has
come to us
so that we might
have salvation



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbLHOA6mRKk>

A photograph of a church interior during a candlelight service. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the numerous small candles held by a congregation of people. The church's architecture features high, vaulted ceilings, arched windows, and a large organ in the background. Two large, white, semi-transparent circles are overlaid on the image, each containing a line of text. The circles overlap in the center of the frame.

**This magnificent
lighting up of
the darkness is a
powerful
reflection of the
presence of
Jesus among the
people...**

**Christ is alive
and living
among them**

The Paschal Candle



The candle is placed on a high stand by the altar and remains lighting for every Liturgy over the fifty days of Easter.

Paschal Candle at the Baptismal Font



After the season of Easter, the paschal candle is placed beside the baptismal font and is lit for every celebration of Baptism. A new paschal candle is lit each Easter.

Easter Sunday

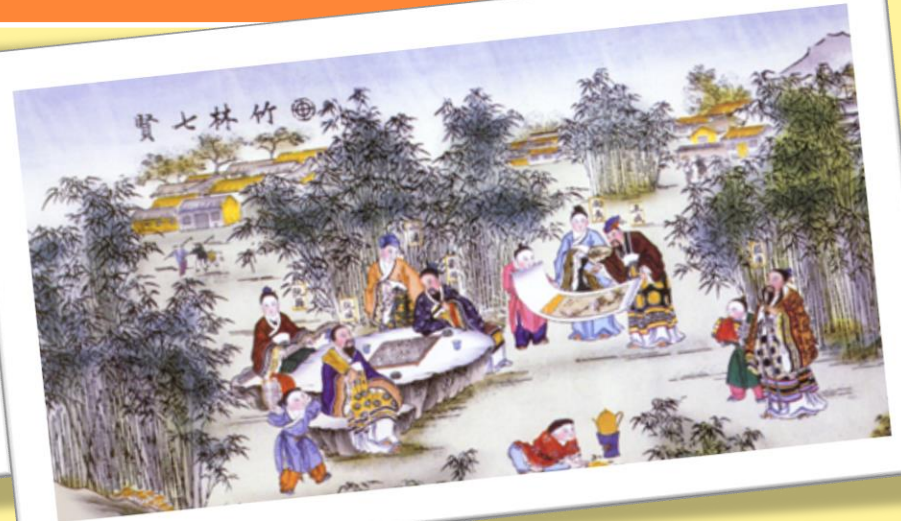


- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0HY9PM9sWhw>

Easter Eggs



In the pre-Christian world, the egg was a common symbol of spring festivals, from Rome to China. The egg symbolised the rebirth of the earth in springtime after a long winter.



Spring festivals in Ancient Rome and China

Easter Eggs



At this time of year, the days begin to lengthen. Just as new life bursts from the egg, so do plants and crops emerge from the barren earth.





The tradition for eggs to be decorated with colours and symbols and given as gifts became popular; in recognition that the cycle of life had begun once again.



Easter Eggs

Christianity retained the egg as a symbol of Easter, its major springtime celebration. It now symbolised the risen Christ emerging from the tomb. Eggs were painted with religious symbols: the triangle representing the Father, Son and Spirit was very common, as were pictures of Jesus emerging from the tomb.



Easter Eggs

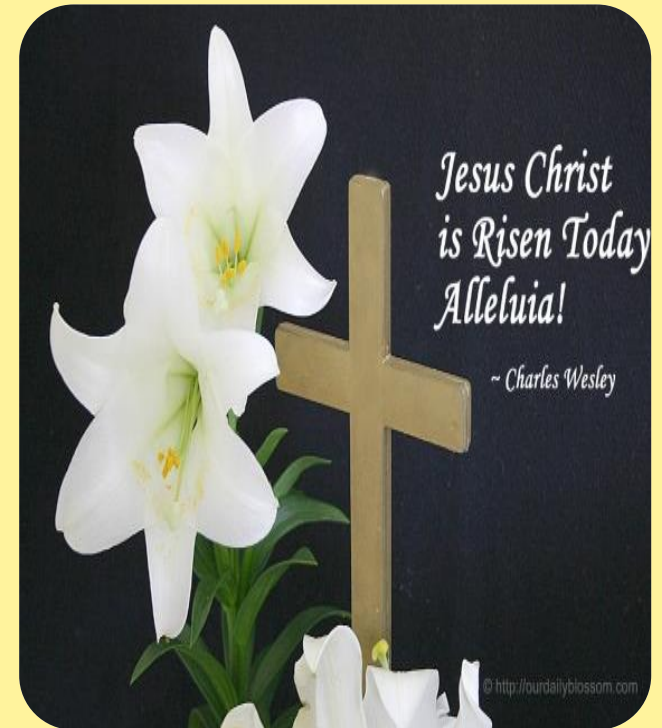
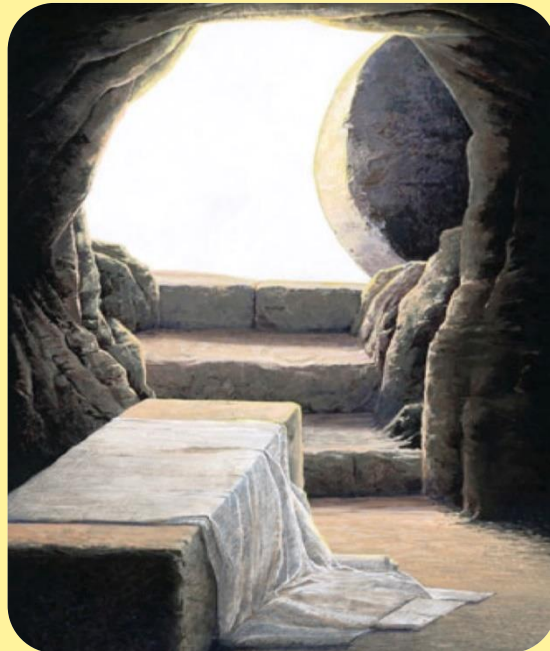


In recent years, the practice of painting eggs for Easter has been replaced with the giving of chocolate eggs as gifts.



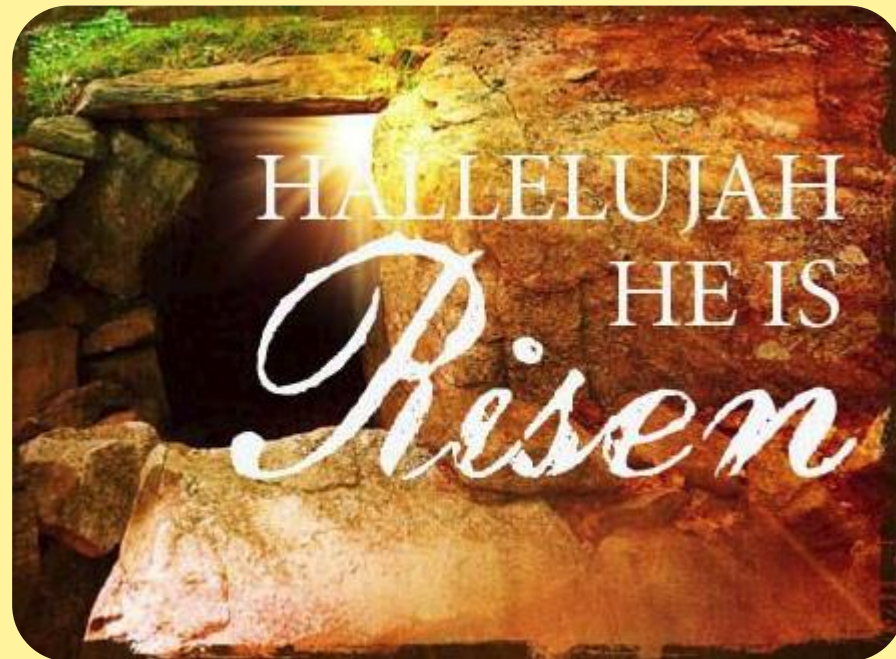
It is important to remind ourselves, that this time of year is not *just* about chocolate, and giving gifts to one another...

For Christians, Easter is the most important event in the Liturgical Year.





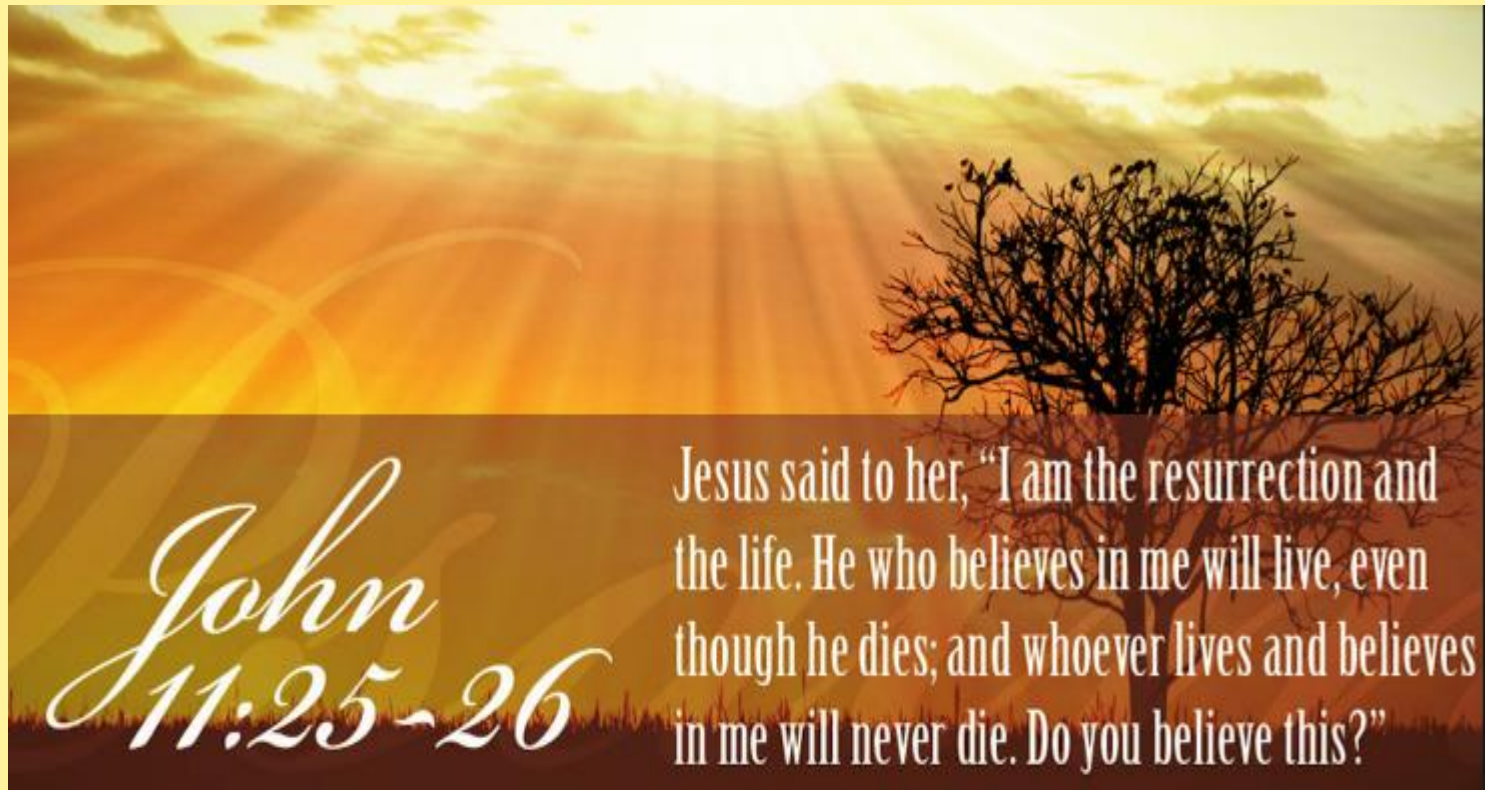
ALLELUIA



<https://www.vevo.com/watch/the-academy-of-st-martin-in-the-fields/chorus-hallelujah/GBD540600480>



Happy Easter!



- Thanks to Anna Moloney, Dublin Diocese Education Secretariat for the colourful historical account of Easter eggs adapted here!