

1.2 Celebration and Pilgrimage

Christmas

Christmas is the day that Jesus was born. It ~~is not~~ The exact date is not known so Christians celebrate it on the 25th of December. Jesus was born in a stable, ^{in Bethlehem} to a virgin mother (the virgin Mary). Jesus was born as a Jew due to his mother being Jewish. After he was born, 3 people came to give him gifts (3 wise men / magi). Above the stable that he was born, there was a star. Christmas is a time of giving.

Gospel definition 1:

The teaching or revelation of Christ

Gospel definition 2:

The record of Christ's life and teaching in the first four books of the New Testament

Synoptic Gospel definition:

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke ~~&~~ which describe events from a similar point of view; as contrasted with that of John

Nativity definition:

The occasion of a person's birth (The birth of Jesus Christ)

The Birth of Jesus is not recorded in the Bible. The actual date is not known, however all Christian denominations, other than the Church of Armenia, celebrate it on the 25th of December.

How do Christians celebrate Christmas? :

When celebrating Christmas, Christians remember that it is the birth of Jesus. Additionally, they observe advent

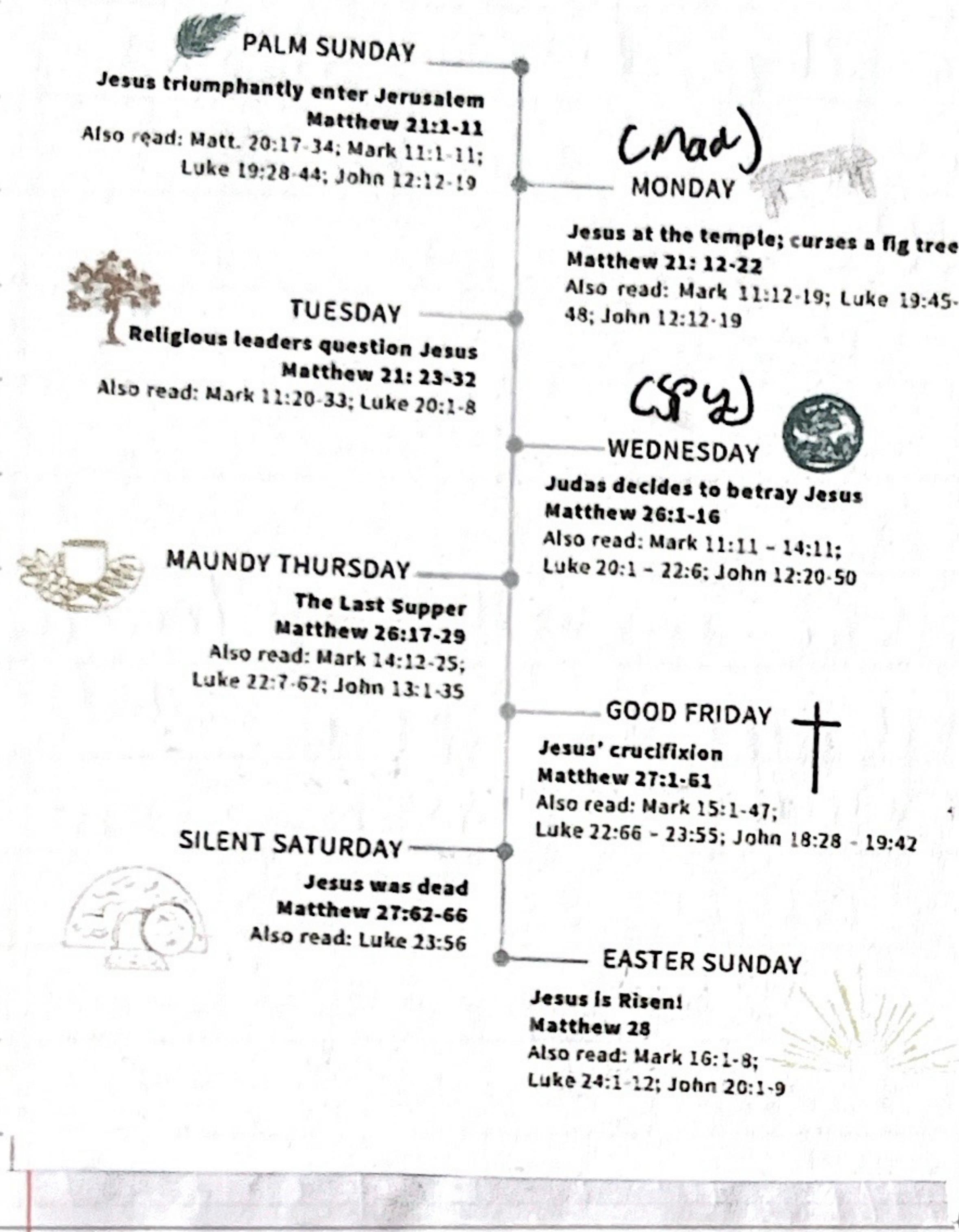
- Sing seasonal songs (carols)
- They read nativity stories (Gospels)
- They pray
- They go to church
- They might display a nativity scene
- They buy presents
- They connect with their community
- Family
- Say grace
- Give to others
- Spread the love

Holy Week

Holy week is the week before Easter, starting on Palm Sunday. It was the week in which Jesus was crucified and resurrected.

HOLY WEEK: A TIMELINE

Chronological Bible Reading Plan



Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter Sunday. This is when people commemorate Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem. To celebrate it, a procession of people carrying palm branches is done to represent his entrance into Jerusalem.

- Holy week is also referred to as the **Passion of Christ**.

- It is called "Good Friday".

The Friday in holy week is called "Good Friday" as everything was going to God's Plane.

Spy Wednesday

Spy Wednesday is the day when Judas betrayed Jesus, hence the name.

Holy Thursday

Holy Thursday is also called Maundy Thursday. This is the meal at which he instituted the Eucharist, the Mass & the priesthood.

Good Friday

This is the day the Jesus was crucified. He died to take the sins of the world with him. It is called Good Friday because everything was going to plan.

Holy Saturday

This is the day that Jesus was buried & when his and his followers mourned. His followers held a vigil outside his tomb while waiting for his resurrection.

Celebrations & Festivals

Festival definition

A day or period of celebration, typically for religious reasons. E.g. "traditional Jewish festivals"

Purpose of festivals in Christmas

Festivals are used to celebrate an important event and show the importance of it. Additionally, it can help you to remember it and show their respect for it. Additionally, it can be used to show their acknowledgement for it. Christians also celebrate festivals to come together and to reiterate the life of Jesus & to educate people.

Pentecost

The Christian festival celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus after his ascension, held on the seventh Sunday after Easter. After he descended on the apostles, he became part of them.

Pilgrimage

A Journey to a place of particular interest or significance e.g. Muslims Pilgrimage to Mecca.

A person that is on a pilgrimage is called a pilgrim.

Places of Pilgrimage:

- Bethlehem
 - Jerusalem
 - Nazareth
- Holy Land

Purpose of Pilgrimage

- TO Show your dedication
- TO show your respect
- TO continue tradition
- Sentimental reasons
- TO become closer to God
- TO show commitment
- To gain knowledge on historical events
- They find it interesting

The experience

- TO be fulfilled & happy
- Connect with like-minded people
- TO see the sites where miracles happened
- Receive special blessings

In Christianity, you do not have to go on pilgrimage in your life, unlike other religions.

Places of Pilgrimage

Melissa

- Bethlehem

This is the Birth Place of Jesus Christ. Many Christians call the most important site in Bethlehem is the Church of Nativity in Manger Square. Inside this, there is the Grotto of Nativity, which has a 14-pointed Star to indicate the birth place of Jesus Christ.

Near this is the Chapel of Manger, where Christians believe Mary placed Jesus after he was born.

Christians travel to Bethlehem particularly at Christmas to attend services in the Grotto. Some pilgrims kiss the Star to show their devotion.

>> Nature & importance

Visiting Bethlehem allows Christians to share their faith with others from around the world as many other denominations are also represented in Bethlehem.

Here Christians can pray & focus their attention to the birth of JS as it has a huge spiritual importance and can help them feel closer with their faith.

Worship - pray - sing - dance - etc
Gathering people by the river - music
of people in the town - etc

- Jerusalem

Jerusalem is a place of pilgrimage for Christians, Jews & Muslims. Jesus visited Jerusalem during Passover and spent the week before his death (aka holy week) there. Some places Christians might visit:

- **Garden of Gethsemane** - This is believed to be where Jesus prayed before his arrest & subsequent death. Christians visit here for contemplation and prayer.

- **Church of the Holy Sepulchre** - This church is built on the supposed site of Jesus' crucifixion. Others believe the Garden Tomb (just outside Jerusalem's walls) marks the site of his death & resurrection.

- **Via Dolorosa** - this is a special route of pilgrimage on the outskirts of Jerusalem that lead to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the same supposed walk took before his crucifixion.

- **Church of Ascension** - This is the marked site of his ascension 40 days after his resurrection, with a stop being inside supposedly ~~feet~~ imprinted with his footprints.

>> Nature and importance

~~The~~ Atonement - the belief that Jesus sacrificed himself to forgive humanity's sins. This enables all Christians to

have a relationship with God. Many Christians believe a pilgrimage can help bring them closer to what Jesus experienced before his death. This can help them to develop spiritually and become closer with God.

-Lourdes

This is a pilgrimage site in France visited by millions each year (mainly Catholics) to see the site of a vision by a young girl called "Bernadette Soubirous" and to be healed by its miraculous waters.

Her visions included Mary. She has said to have witnessed the same vision many times. In one vision, Mary asked Bernadette to drink at spring beneath her feet. The next day the muddy area sloshed with clear water. A Chapel was built in the exact spot of this vision.

Christian pilgrims now visit and pray in the **Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes** and worship at the grotto where the vision is said to have taken place.

Pilgrims also take part in a **Torchlight Marian procession** at every evening before a Mass. Pilgrims also confess at the reconciliation Chapel.

⇒ Nature and importance

Lourdes is believed to be special as its prayers supposedly bring real blessings to the pilgrim.

Pilgrims may visit in belief to
be ~~cured~~ cleansed of their sins
and to be healed as the spring water
from the grotto supposedly has healing
powers.

This opportunity to focus closely ~~on~~ on
their faith helps pilgrims feel secured
the belief that Good will look after
them, forgive them sins & cure their
illnesses.

of the 2nd site from below the 2nd floor room.
It contains very old religious and
ancient shopping, like from Persia
and probably it's a local market place to
buy and sell items with fabrics
and other stuff in mud and
stone.

A long way down with many
shops and fabrics to buy
and some objects to buy
and a lot of old pine cones.

Height of the 2nd site up 2nd flr

old pine cones to buy

old fabrics carrying from a
local shopkeeper

some fabrics here and there

old fabrics and some old fabrics

old fabrics and some old fabrics

old fabrics and some old fabrics

Easter

Easter celebrating the resurrection of Jesus after his death. It starts on Good Friday, through to Easter Sunday and finally the 'Feast' or Pentecost.

To celebrate Easter, candles are often used in Churches all over the world to help Christians remember that Jesus is the light of the world and that when he rose to life on Easter Day he got rid of the darkness of evil (atoning for humanity's sins).

Additionally, people attend Church to ~~celebrate~~ Jesus' crucifixion and ~~resurrection~~ resurrection & churches are filled with flowers to represent new life.

