

3A MARDI GRAS

1

Mardi Gras sets off the events leading up to Easter. Brush up on your Easter knowledge, and match the special days and holidays to the descriptions.

Mardi Gras

Spy Wednesday

Lent

Maundy Thursday

Ash Wednesday

Good Friday

Easter Sunday

Black Saturday

Easter Monday

Palm Sunday



1 **Mardi Gras** marks the end of Carnival season in New Orleans. It has many names in English for its many traditions. It is called Shrove Tuesday, because on this day Catholics ask for forgiveness for their sins. Its other names are 'Fat Tuesday' and 'Pancake Tuesday', because it is also the last chance to overeat fatty foods before the start of Lent.



2 _____ is one day after Mardi Gras, and it is the first day of Lent. It is a day of prayer and the beginning of fasting for Christians. Its name comes from the tradition of making an ash cross on the forehead of people asking for forgiveness.

3 _____ is a 40-day period leading up to Easter. During these six weeks Catholics do not usually eat meat on Fridays. People often decide to give up on a certain habit or luxury and focus on their wellbeing.



4 _____, or Passion Sunday, as it is also called, is the first day of Holy Week and the beginning of the week leading up to Easter. On this day Catholic and Orthodox believers usually go to church to have branches of local trees, such as bay or olive trees, blessed by the priest during Mass.



5 _____, or Holy Wednesday, is not a day for spies, but the day when Christians think about how Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus Christ. It is also the last day of Lent.

On 6 _____ Christians think about the Last Supper, which included the washing of feet with holy oil. Today, in the UK the Queen hands out special coins, or Maundy Money, to the old and the poor.



7 _____ is the final Friday before Easter Day. On this day there are special parades in many countries. In the UK there are no parades, but people enjoy traditional buns called 'hot cross buns'.



8 _____, or the Saturday of Light, as it is sometimes called, is a day for vigil or night Mass.



9 _____, or Easter Day, is the day of Easter traditions: early-morning Mass, the dyeing of Easter eggs and the Easter Egg Hunt.



10 _____ is a bank holiday in many countries and a day of rest for Christians. It is often a day for Easter parades, outdoor sports activities or various traditional events, such as the Easter Egg Roll.