

To say Happy Easter in Italian you say 'buona Pasqua'. This actually means 'good Easter.' Preparations for Easter begin in the days leading up to Shrove Tuesday. In Italian, this period is called *Carnevale*. The final day of *Carnevale* is Shrove Tuesday. In Italian it is called *Martedì Grasso*, meaning 'Fat Tuesday.'

After all the fun of Carnevale, there is a serious period of forty days, called La Quaresima. In English, it is called Lent. It begins the day after Martedì Grasso. The first day of La Quaresima is Ash Wednesday. In Italian it is called *il mercoledì delle Ceneri*. We go to church and the priest rubs some ash onto our foreheads. The mark of ash is in the shape of a cross. The period of La Quaresima ends on Giovedì Santo (Maundy Thursday).

The week running up to Easter Sunday is called La Settimana Santa (Holy Week). The first day of La Settimana Santa is called la domenica delle Palme (Palm Sunday).

On Good Friday, il Venerdì Santo, in Italy we do not eat meat. You can only eat fish and things like vegetables, pasta, fruit and bread on this day. Holy Week finishes with Easter Sunday - la Domenica di Pasqua. When we go home, to celebrate we eat chocolate eggs, called le uova di Pasqua.

Another important thing that we eat on Easter day is a special cake called *una colomba*. The word *colomba* actually means 'dove.' The cake is in the shape of a dove with open wings. It is a sponge cake with sugar crystals and almonds sprinkled on top.

## 1. Find the words in Italian in the text.

Good Friday	
Easter Sunday	
Dove	
Lent	
Ash Wednesday	
Maudy Thursday	
Good Friday	
Happy Easter!	

## 2. Write down 3 similarities and 3 differences about Easter in Italy and in Australia

Australia							Italy										
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## 3. Find the Italian equivalent of the following words in the wordsearch

Happy Easter
Carnival
Dove
Palm Sunday
Easter Sunday

Holy Thursday
Lent
Holy Week
Easter eggs
Good Friday

