

Dear Padre,

**Where did the idea of an Easter bunny come from?
What about the Easter egg?**



SYTYLAINA MARTYNOWA / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Easter bunny is really a hare which, according to an Egyptian legend, is a symbol of the moon. Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon that occurs after the twenty-first day of March. Put this together, and we have an Easter bunny.

Early Christians gave new meaning to the Roman proverb *Omne vivum ex ovo*, which means, “All life comes from an egg.” A hatching chick represented the risen Christ emerging from the shell of a tomb on Easter morning. Consequently, eggs were prohibited during the Lenten fast and were reintroduced at the Easter meal and also shared as decorated gifts. In 1610, a prayer by Pope Paul V blessed the egg “that it may become a wholesome sustenance to Thy faithful servants, eating in thankfulness to Thee, on account of the Resurrection of Our Lord.”

In some parts of the world, children carry baskets and torches and sing Easter carols as they go from place to place. They are given brightly colored eggs to put in their baskets. In other places, eggs are carried to church and blessed by the priests. The eggs are taken home and placed in the center of the table as the main dish at the Easter feast. Visitors to the house during Easter week are offered this sacred food of the resurrection. Happy Easter! ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| April 1 | April 2 | April 3 | April 4 | April 5 | April 6 | April 7 |
| <i>Octave of Easter</i> | <i>Octave of Easter</i> | <i>Octave of Easter</i> | <i>Octave of Easter</i> | <i>Octave of Easter</i> | <i>Octave of Easter</i> | <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i> |
| Acts 2:14, 22-33 | Acts 2:36-41 Jn 20:11-18 | Acts 3:1-10 Lk 24:13-35 | Acts 3:11-26 Lk 24:35-48 | Acts 4:1-12 Jn 21:1-14 | Acts 4:13-21 Mk 16:9-15 | <i>(Sunday of Divine Mercy)</i> Acts 4:32-35 1 Jn 5:1-6 Jn 20:19-31 |
| Mt 28:8-15 | | | | | | |

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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

In the light of the Risen Lord, our sufferings are now transfigured. Where there was death, now there is life. Where there was mourning, now there is consolation. In embracing the cross, Jesus bestowed meaning on our sufferings and now we pray that the benefits of that healing will spread throughout the world.

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