

EASTER



TIME

DATES

March - April

FREQUENCY

Annual

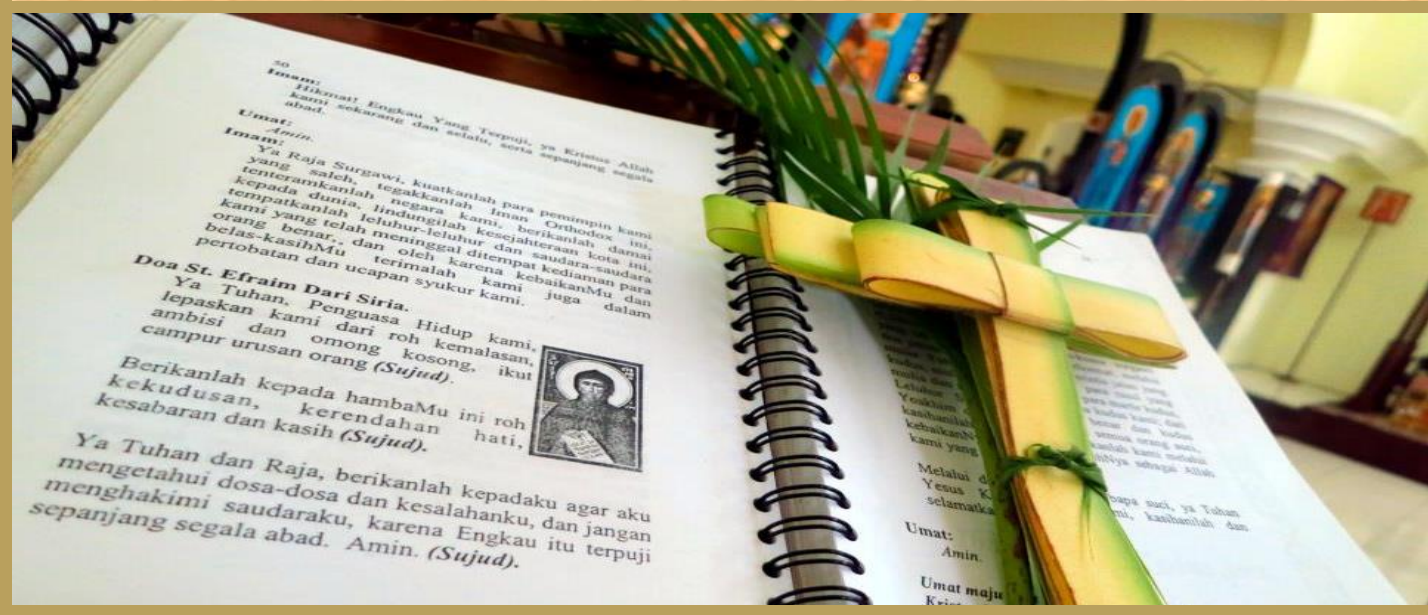
DURATION

1 Week



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Easter is celebrated to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is preceded by a 40-day period of fasting, prayers and penance called Lent. The week just before Easter is referred to as the Holy Week that begins with the Palm Sunday. It is marked by palm leaves service and Hosanna feast. It is said that when Jesus entered Jerusalem people expressed their happiness on seeing the Lord by waving at him with branches of Palm and Olive trees and shouted 'Hosanna' (which means 'God saves' in Hebrew). Monte Thursday and Good Friday that fall in this week are celebrated with much religious fervor. It is customary to wash the feet of twelve old men on Monte Thursday while processions in which a statue of Jesus is carried are taken out on Good Friday. Candles are lit after the midnight mass on Easter symbolizing the light of resurrection.





EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Special Prayers
Lighting of candles
Feast
Holy Procession
Fireworks

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

Easter marks the end of the season of Lent, when the devout abstain from material comforts to gain spiritual strength. The faithful in large numbers congregate for midnight Easter mass in churches across the state, where senior prelates and vicars gave out the message of renewed hope and promise as symbolized by the sacrifice of Christ for the redemption of God's creations. Palm Sunday which refers to the Christian feast that commemorates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem before his crucifixion on Calvary is observed with much religious fervor. The ceremony of Christ's supper and the traditional washing of feet are carried out to stress the love for one another on the Holy Thursday. The rite of the paschal bread is carried out in most of the Christian households. When the dinner is over, the cross cake is brought out and cut into pieces and then distributed among all the family members. On Good Friday, following the Holy Thursday, all the church services are held in the afternoon. A pungent drink made out of leaves and vinegar is served along with other food items in most shrines. Easter Vigil is observed on Saturday night. A new fire is lit and sanctified from which many more candles are lit suggesting resurrection. The Easter Sunday comprises of quiet celebrations and feast with family and friends.

