



NATIONAL DAY – EASTER

Traditional Easter foods are especially lamb or goat and, as dessert, the “Colomba”, an Easter pie, a sort of sweet eggy yeasted bread shaped in one of the most recognizable symbols of Easter, the dove. Then, typical foods are the famous chocolate eggs, that usually come with a surprise inside.

Typical Italian decorations are coloured and decorated eggs and drawings of little sheeps, chicks and rabbits.

Easter is celebrated with religious parades, special church services, music, candlelight, flowers and the ringing of church bells. In Vatican City there are a series of solemn events that culminate in the Easter Sunday Mass. During the spring holidays there are also many other rites practiced throughout the country that have their roots in historic pagan rituals. In each Italian town people take part in processions and, naturally, the midnight Mass.

In addition, the Monday following Easter is an official Italian holiday called “Pasquetta”, when families and friends usually celebrate by having picnics or barbecues in the open air, at home, in parks, on the mountains or at the seaside. We also have a trip, but not everybody knows it reminds us the two disciples of Emmaus and their trip from Emmaus where they met Jesus.

Why do we usually eat eggs? We usually eat eggs because it’s a symbol of rebirth, so it reminds us Jesus’s resurrection. They are also symbol of fecundity. The name, in Italian “Pasqua ”, comes from Latin “Pascha ” and it means “passage”.