

EASTER

On *Easter*, Christians throughout the world celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The symbolism itself inspires people with hope, confidence and the wish to be better, making of Easter one of the most important and widely celebrated church holidays.

In Romania, *painted eggs* are the most representative symbols of Easter. Numerous tourists to our country are amazed by the brightness of colours, by the patterns and the harmony of nuances used to paint eggs. The patterns are very different: animals, plants, branches, geometric motifs, crosses, domestic tools, sun, stars and even angels.



Everyone loves spring.
And I like this season because of Easter.
Sun warms our hearts after the winter.
The perfect time to spend with my family is in this period.
Eggs are my favourite part at this celebration, because I like to paint them in bright colours.
Red eggs are greatly blended with the smell of spongecake and the homy atmosphere.

Dan Bianca

Easter eggs for baskets
Are well done, decorated with
So many colours and everything comes to life.
Together, in our families
Everywhere you look
Rabbits soft and cuddly you will see.

Darie Alexia

Everyone is painting eggs
A lot of chocolate eggs are also bought
Sentiments are on fire
The rabbit is coming with presents
Energy and good vibes only
Romanians love this tradition.

Mirea Victor

Easter traditions
Adorable bunny visiting very young children
Stunning baskets full of painted eggs and sweets
Talented people decorating eggs
Elegant bunny costumes
Roasted lamb for the festive meal.

Nicula Justin



<http://www.dozadebine.ro/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/cozonac-Paste.jpg>

DRAGOBETE

Dragobete is a traditional Romanian holiday which is celebrated on February 24th and considered the Romanian equivalent of Valentine's Day- the celebration of love or the day of the lovers. Dragobete was the son of Baba Dochia. Unlike the kind and gentle Valentine in the Catholic religion, Dochia's son is not only good-looking but also strong and having a tempestuous nature. The tradition has Dacian origins. Accordingly, Dragobete was a matchmaker and godfather of animals but the Romanians transformed him in a protector of those who love and meet on that day, the significance being that their love would last for the whole year. The day is also associated with the coming of spring.

Dragobete is a love day
Romantic gestures
A day with lovely people
Going to romantic places
Only happy couples celebrate this day
Boys buy girls gifts and flowers
Everyone is happily eating out
The girls are dating boys
Every girl waits for a romantic gift.

Nicodim Melisa

Dearest person that stays with you
Rupture from reality
Always unsure about what's next
Going to either spend your time with your soul mate or choose to isolate yourself, in your head, away from everybody else
Out there, losing yourself while looking for love
Bearing, or at least trying to, the idea that you're alone
Earning confidence thanks to your half
Tearing yourself apart due to the loneliness
Enjoying yourself to the fullest.

Neagu Diana



<http://mesagerdeconstanta.ro/app/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/dragobetelesaruta-fetele.jpg>

MĂRȚIȘOR

Mărțișor is a traditional Romanian celebration of the coming of spring. It is celebrated on the March 1st every year. The day's name is the diminutive of March (in Romanian *Martie*), and thus means something like "little" or "dear March". Its origins are old and mention of this exists in the Roman celebrations of Mars, the god of fertility and vegetation.

Mărțișor is also the name of a talisman object consisting of a small decoration or jewel tied to a white and red string, symbolizing the coming of spring. The small decoration can be something like a flower, an animal or a heart and it is offered to women by men on this day. However, giving a little nickel tied to a red and white string is an old custom and was originally designated for both men and women. It was believed that the one who wears the red and white string would be powerful and healthy for the year to come. The decoration is a symbol of the coming spring like the holiday itself. A woman wears it pinned to her blouse on this day and up to two weeks after. In some parts of the country, women also give such gifts to men. A duality of symbols is kept in the colours of the Mărțișor: white - the colour of winter and red - the colour of spring. It might also symbolize peace and war, or love and purity/divinity.

Mom's Day is the most wonderful part this spring

Amazing smells in the air

Rose petals on my porch

Tiny flowers in the trees

Inspiring landscapes through the window

Spring spirit in our souls

Overnight thoughts

Reach minds full of hope.

Curelaru Andreea



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/8/85/Martisor_simple.svg/1200px-Martisor_simple.svg.png

BOBOTEAZA - THE EPIPHANY DAY

In our country *The Epiphany Day* is celebrated on the 6th of January every year. It is a religious holiday and its customs are related to the religious service which is aimed at sanctifying the waters. Thus the most important element on this day, besides the church ceremony, is represented by the carrying of the cross to the Danube or to another running water. First, the priest makes a divine service in the church or by the river bank and then he throws the cross into the water. Young men dive into the water to catch the cross and the one who succeeds is said to be under the protection of God throughout the whole year.

PLUGUȘORUL - THE LITTLE PLOUGH

Plugușorul/ The little plough is a very ancient fertility rite performed in Romania on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. A long recitation in verse representing allegorically the whole work of the field, from the ploughing to the kneading and baking of rolls of pure cornflour is intoned against a background of sounds produced by the bellowing of a kind of drum called *bull* ("buhai"). In fact *buhaiu* represents a piece of wood (a wooden drum) with a string through it which, when pulled, produces a deep sound similar to the lowing of a bullock. The custom is thus a traditional procession with a decorated plough wishing for the fruitfulness of the fields and rich crops into the new year. The ploughmen are generally teenagers and children carrying whips, bells, pipes, flutes and other musical instruments in their hands.



<https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colind#/media/File:TimbruPlugușorul.png>