

Easter customs in Slovenia



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There are old beliefs in Slovenia concerning Easter about what one must and must not do during Easter days.

On Thursday, no laundry is to be washed and no physical work is to be done. In the Northern Primorska region, Western part of Slovenia, on Friday afternoon laundry is not to be dried. Jesus was hammered to the cross on Friday, and therefore no linen should be hung on a rope on Good Friday.

On Good Friday, before the sunrise, the cattle is to be decorated with green branches so that cows might be more milky. Even shepherds should play their song before the sunrise as to protect their flock against wild animals and birds.

If there is a tree in an orchard, that has not produced fruits for several years, stones are to be put around it on Good Friday and the following words are to be pronounced: "If you do not give any fruits, then you will be carrying stones!"

If a parish priest carries around the Bible on Good Friday evening, that year the cherry trees will blossom.



On Good Friday, every housewife needs to plant something, so everything will grow better.

On Saturday afternoon home owners are to drink water and wash. By doing so, they will avoid being taken ill. Some water is poured into sour cabbage or turnips; In this way they will stay fresh all year round.

On the Saturday Easter eggs are painted, tasty food is being prepared to be taken in big baskets topped with a white linen napkin to the church. There the food is blessed: bread, cooked ham, sausages, three horseradish roots, cake - potica, white and red eggs and one cut egg, meat on bone, that should not be cut.