

KARFREITAG / GOOD FRIDAY

Spiritual Celebrations

On Good Friday, the beginning of the religious activities start, with church services remembering the crucifixion of Jesus.

Sometimes there are prayer services in the churches starting on Saturday evening and continuing until dawn on Easter Sunday.

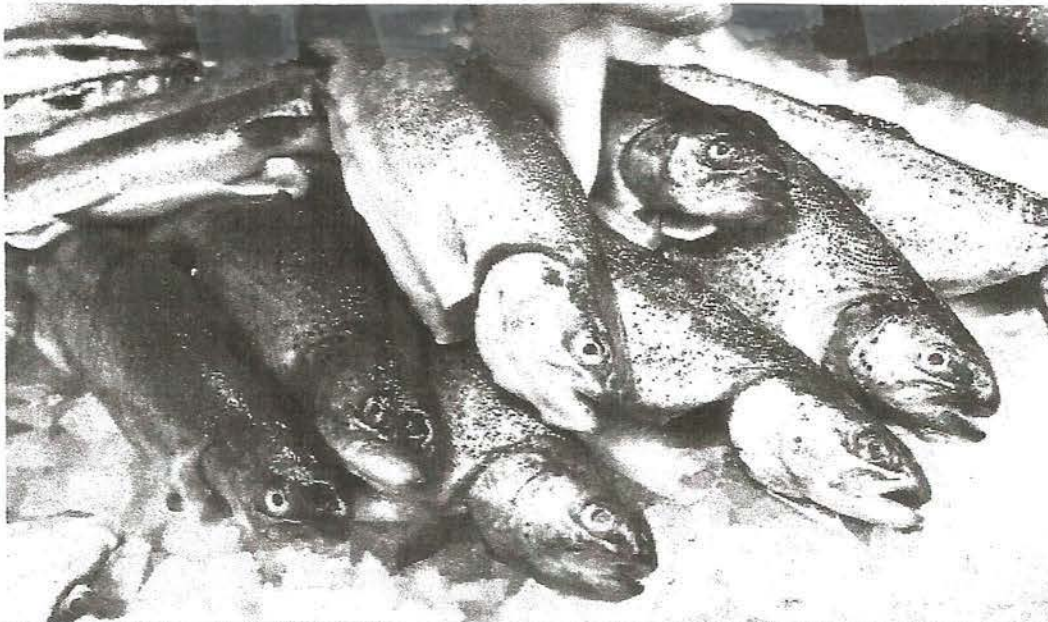
At church, Easter Sunday, the resurrection of Jesus is celebrated. This, after all, is the reason for Easter. Now, once home, it's time to enjoy the Easter dinner recipes that have been prepared.

Good Friday — Preceding Easter, it is the anniversary of Christ's crucifixion, and people have rightly wondered how such a tragic day could be called Good Friday. Several reasons may account for the apparent misnomer:

It might have been chosen merely to distinguish this Friday from all other Fridays of the year. Another explanation of the name is based on the Christian dogma that Jesus' crucifixion was the direct cause of human salvation. His death (on Friday) had atoned for man's original sin. And to stress the

great good that therefore had come out of evil may well be the reason why, almost paradoxically, that day of gloom became known as Good Friday.

However, most likely, the name is a corruption of the original "God's Friday." The day used to be kept as a day of fast, abstinence and penance. Its liturgical color was black, no bells were rung and the church organ was kept silent. Numerous customs and traditions developed to express and recall the tragic circumstances.



Eat your fish and be quiet: On Good Friday, "Karfreitag" in German, no church bells ring, no songs are sung, and no music should be played, as this is the day Jesus was crucified. The word "kar" comes from the old German word "kara," meaning lamentation. It is a day of fasting, where the only meal eaten should be fish.