

PFINGSTEN / PENTECOST

Pentecost



Green twigs are symbol of Whitsuntide.

Old Beliefs

Formerly, there were also some popular beliefs connected with Pentecost, Ascension Day and other times of this season: certain herbs were believed to have curative powers only when picked on a Whitsunday morning (or on other special days), or at

and so are Ascension Day (Himmelfahrt) and the Monday after Whitsunday (Pfingsten). Pentecost especially is the traditional time for a family outing. Green twigs are the feast's most popular symbol.

sunrise, if the person gathering them did not speak a word. Also water scooped up at this time was attributed with curative powers. Some ancient spring customs have survived in certain regions either because they allow proud parents to show off their children, or because parents and teachers believe in their educational value. In some villages, the youngsters get together, wrap one child in a cloak of green twigs and then lead him through the village, while they sing songs or ask for little gifts. Elsewhere, either a couple is adorned the same way or a girl in a white dress is led through the village as the "May Bride" or "Whitsun Bride." These customs are related to the children's parades ("Sommer-tagsumzuege") on Mid-Lent Sunday (the fourth Sunday after Ash Wednesday), which take place in the Pfalz, northern Baden and southern Hessen. Sometimes winter is symbolized in the parades by a person dressed in straw while spring is represented by a figure adorned with green twigs.

Pfingsten (Whitsun)

Bavaria celebrates very interesting customs and festivals at Whitsun. In **Kötzting** (Bavarian Forest) hundreds of riders on decorated horses move to a small church outside the town and all the way back. Other Whitsun Rides are held for example in **Sankt Englmar** (Bavarian Forest) and in **Ochsenfurt** (Franconia) where beside the ride the "**Bratwurstfest**" (franconian speciality). And, of course, there are also some beerfestivals around Whitsun, for example the "**Erlanger Bergkirchweih**" (Mountain Church Consecration Fair).

Was
„Pfingsten“
bedeutet

Pfingsten ist der siebte Sonntag (fünfzig Tage) nach Ostern und ist deshalb auch ein bewegliches Fest. Wie schon vorher gesagt, ist der Pfingstmontag auch ein Feiertag. Die Schulen haben eine oder zwei Wochen Ferien. Da das Wetter zu dieser Zeit meistens schön ist, gehen die jungen Leute gern auf Wanderungen, oder Familien machen Ausflüge mit Dampfer, Omnibus oder Zug. In vielen kleinen Städten gibt es Schützenfeste. Die Männer schießen nach der Scheibe, und der beste Schütze wird „Schützenkönig.“ Dafür bekommt er eine schwere Silberkette, die er dann im nächsten Jahr dem neuen Schützenkönig überreichen darf.