



How - and Why -

to celebrate Easter

Easter around the world

I'm glad I don't live in the Czech Republic. Apparently Easter Monday is celebrated by the men spanking ladies with a special broom—made of willow rods up to 2 metres long. The fact that they are decorated with ribbons doesn't make them more attractive to me, though the tradition that the women can reciprocate the next day with a bucket of cold water sounds interesting.

More widely spread around the world are traditions involving eggs—they can be hidden, rolled down hills, knocked together in a game resembling conkers, or painted

Method:

Melt the butter/margarine, and add golden syrup, sugar, spice, eggs and milk.

Mix the fruit and flour, then pour the wet ingredients in and mix well.

Put half into an 8 inch tin

Make a flat 8 inch circle with 300g marzipan and put it on the cake dough, then put the rest of the dough on top.

Bake in the oven (150 °C 325 °F Gas Mark 3) for 1-1 1/4 hours, or until a skewer comes out with nothing sticky.

Allow it to cool for 10 mins then remove from the tin to cool thoroughly

Decorate with 11 small marzipan balls on top of another round layer of marzipan



Ingredients:

300g/10oz self raising flour
1/2 teaspoon mixed spice
110g/4oz butter or margarine
110g/4oz brown sugar
2 tablespoons of golden syrup
350g/12oz mixed dry fruit
2 eggs
approx. 100 ml milk to mix
700g Marzipan

and hung on trees.

Another Easter idea which appeals to my son is from Norway, where reading, watching or

re-enacting murder mysteries is a more recently established tradition.

But Why??

I'm sure all these traditions have a root somewhere in history, and possibly even in Christianity. For example, the 11 balls on the simnal cake are for the apostles—twelve less one for Judas who betrayed Jesus. I think the murder mysteries and even the spanking could have something to do with either Judas or the sins of the world for which Jesus had to die.

The eggs are variously described as representing the stone which rolled away from the tomb, or the tomb itself (have you ever wondered why some Easter eggs are empty?), or as a symbol of new life.

My favourite tradition is from Bermuda where they fly kites to represent Jesus's resurrection and ascension to heaven. That's what Easter is about.

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