



# FUN DAY TIMES



***Fun with colours***

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara



## COMPETITIONS

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## EASTER PAGE 3

## ONLINE



PAGE 6



**Please send competition entries to:**

**Funday Times**  
C/O the Sunday Times  
P.O. Box 1136, Colombo.  
Or  
8, Hunupitiya Cross Road,  
Colombo 2.

**Please note that competition entries are accepted by email.**

**Write the name of the competition and the date clearly at the top of your entry and include the following details:**

Full Name (including Surname),  
Date of Birth, Address,  
Telephone Number and School.

Please underline the name most commonly used.

**All competition entries should be certified by a parent or guardian as your own work.**

Competition entries without the full details requested above, will be disqualified.

**Closing date for this week's competitions:**  
**April 22, 2026**

**Telephone: 2479337/2479333**  
**Email: [fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)**



**In our online issue this week:**

- **Page 5** – Competitions
- **Page 6** – Animals
- **Page 7** – Kids' News
- **Page 8** – News in Pictures

Please log on to the Funday Times website on [www.fundaytimes.lk](http://www.fundaytimes.lk) or check out the Sunday Times epaper on [www.sundaytimes.lk](http://www.sundaytimes.lk) for additional pages of this week's Funday Times.

**FUNDAY TIMES KIDS IN COLOUR**



Funday Times together with Richard is happy to launch a new Art Competition for our readers.

A topic will be given each month.

The paintings should be on **A4 size paper** and you could use any medium of your choice.

Three winners from two age groups will be selected each month. Winners will receive an attractive gift pack from Richard.



**All paintings should be certified by a teacher or parent as your own work.**

Age Groups: 4 – 6 and 7 – 10 years

**Please write your Full Name, Date of Birth, Home Address, Telephone Number and School and paste it on the back of your entry.**

**Topic for April: Sinhala & Tamil New Year Celebrations**

**Closing Date: April 30, 2026**



Or



[fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)



**Little students of Maple Kids International enjoyed colourful Holi celebrations in March.**

Pix by M. A. Pushpa Kumara



# EASTER

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

**E**aster is the celebration of the event that is the cornerstone of Christianity: the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Therefore, in the Christian calendar, it is the most important event despite Christmas stealing the spotlight.

## Background

Easter Sunday is preceded by Holy Week, which begins on Palm Sunday, includes Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and ends on Holy Saturday. According to the Bible, Jesus was crucified on a Friday (commemorated today on Good Friday) and laid in a nearby tomb, which was a cave whose entrance was closed with a large rock and guarded by Roman soldiers. On Sunday, the tomb was found to be open and Jesus' body missing. He was seen alive later that day, having risen from the dead, and continued to appear for 40 days, before ascending to heaven. Holy Saturday marks the transition between Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, while the Sunday of His resurrection is commemorated on Easter Sunday.

## Etymology of 'Easter'

The origins of the English word 'Easter', has been debated for centuries. One view dating back to the 8<sup>th</sup> century and put forward by the Anglo-Saxon theologian and historian, Venerable Bede, is that the word is derived from 'Eostre' (or Eostræ), the name of an Anglo-Saxon goddess supposedly associated with spring and fertility.

However, this has been disputed, and the word's current widely accepted origin is the Latin phrase 'in albis', said to be the plural of 'alba' ('dawn'), which later became *eostarum* in Old High German (the precursor of modern English). In German, Easter is called *Ostern* or *Paisken*, depending on the region.

The word for Easter in Hebrew is 'Pesach', which means 'Passover' and is the root word for Easter in many languages: *Pascha* in Aramaic, Latin and Greek; *Pasqua* in Italian; *Pascua* in Spanish; *Pâques* in French; *Paschen* in Dutch; *Paaske* in Norwegian; and *Pask* in Swedish and Scottish. In Sri Lanka, Easter is celebrated as 'Paasku'.

## What is Passover?

Passover is the commemoration of the liberation of the Israelites by Moses, from the Egyptians, as recounted in the Old Testament of the Bible.

Jesus was crucified during the Passover period, which is why Easter is named after it.

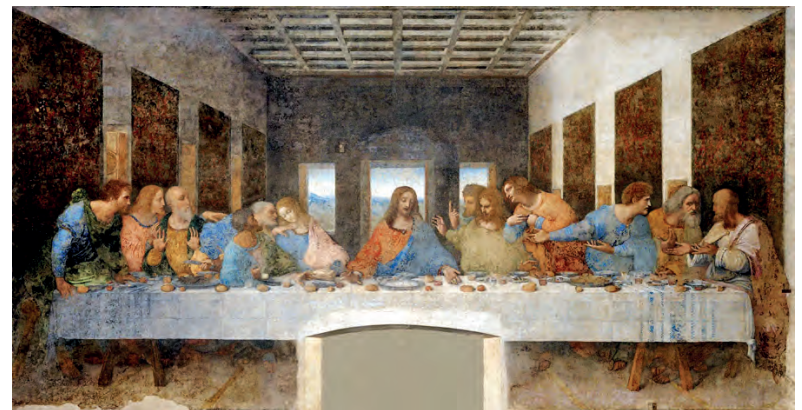
Maundy Thursday commemorates the last meal that Jesus had with his disciples' during Passover.



The Resurrection, tapestry, 1525 - 1531. © Musei Vaticani

## When is Easter?

Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon, which is the first full moon on or after March 21 (an approximation of the calendrical spring equinox). Therefore, Easter always falls between March 22 and April 25.



Last Supper, wall painting by Leonardo da Vinci, 1495-98. © Universal History Archive.

## Early celebrations of Easter

Despite modern celebrations involving Easter eggs and bunnies, these traditions evolved later and did not have direct associations with the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The earliest celebrations of Easter, which still endure, were mainly liturgical, with the Easter Vigil being the most well-established. One part of the vigil involves the lighting of the Paschal candle, which symbolises the victory of Jesus Christ (light) over death (darkness).

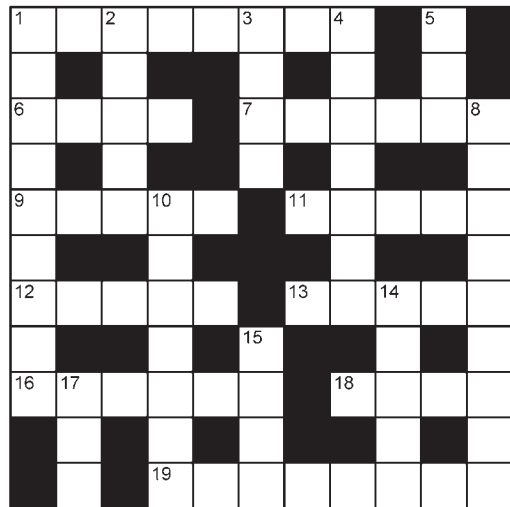


Easter Vigil Mass at St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City, 2015 (Stefano Rellandini/Reuters)





**LUMALA Crossword – No. 20**



**Across**

- 1 A painting of someone's face
- 6 Covered with oil
- 7 Boots with wheels
- 9 Our planet
- 11 Postage sticker
- 12 Rail transport
- 13 Winner's award
- 16 A baby's toy
- 18 A young sheep
- 19 Someone you work for

**Down**

- 1 Film-showing machine
- 2 A measuring stick
- 3 Too
- 4 Cook bread brown in this
- 5 Honey maker
- 8 A month
- 10 A prickly plant
- 14 The country with the Leaning Tower of Pisa
- 15 Jump
- 17 Donkey

**Solution No. 19**



**Sehas Wijesinghe,**  
Vitharandeniya

Entries should be certified as your own work, by a teacher or parent.

*Closing Date: April 30, 2026*

**LUMALA BICYCLE COMPETITION**

You now have a chance to win a brand new **LUMALA bicycle** for your own. One lucky winner will receive a brand new Lumala bicycle each month. All you have to do is fill in the Lumala Crossword No. 20, according to the clues given. Write the answers neatly on a postcard or paper, and send it to **Funday Times**. Cut the strip 'LUMALA Crossword No. 20' seen at the top of the page and paste it on your entry.

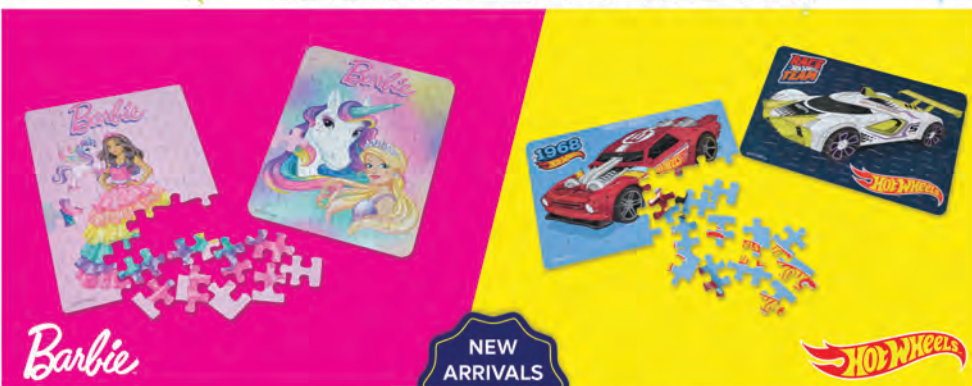


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**Age Group: 8 – 15 years**

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**4 – 6 years**



- ▶ Aaron De Sylva, Nugegoda
- ▶ Mohamed Yaman, Dehiwala
- ▶ Tharunithhari Mohan, Kandy
- ▶ Sayyaf Riswan, Beruwala
- ▶ Habeebah Raza Hussain, Dehiwala

Winners please call **Funday Times** on **2479333/2479337** and arrange to collect your prizes.

**4 – 6 AGE GROUP**

Spot six differences between the pictures.



Or [fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)



## Avurudu Cover 2026

As the Sinhala and Tamil New Year approaches, it is time once again to think of the Funday Times Avurudu Cover. Would you like to send in a picture for our Avurudu Cover? If so, here's what you have to do.

**Paint a picture to depict the traditions of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year and send it in to us. The painting should be on A4 size paper. You could use any type of paint, crayons or chalk. Please make your picture bright and colourful.**

**All entries should be certified by a teacher or parent as your own work. Uncertified entries will not be entertained.**



Or



**Closing Date:  
April 8, 2026**

The best entry will be used for the cover of the Funday Times Avurudu issue. The winner will also receive a book voucher. Wish you all happy painting!

Hi Kids,  
Please send in your Articles and Art for Kids' World, to be published in the Funday Times online edition and website.

## FROM THE EDITOR

As you can see, we have space only once a month for Kids' World articles and art in the print edition.

Therefore, we are planning to carry them every week in the Funday Times online pages as well as on the Funday Times website.

We also invite schools to send in their students' work for a school page in the online edition and website.

Thanking you in anticipation of your positive response.



Or



## Read-a-Book and win a voucher from Vijitha Yapa Bookshop

Read any book of your choice and write briefly about it.

What we want is not just a summary of the story but your views on the book.

The best account in the three age groups will be awarded book vouchers of Rs. 500 each from Vijitha Yapa Bookshop. Three winners will be selected each month.

Your account should not exceed 200 words.

Please indicate word count, fill in the coupon and attach it to your entry.

### Read-a-Book Competition

**Name :** .....

**Date of birth :** .....

**Address :** .....

**School:** .....

**Tel:** .....

**Finished book on :** .....



Or



## Young Reporters

If you are interested in joining as a Funday Times Young Reporter please fill in the coupon given and send it in to us along with a recent report or interview not exceeding 300 words. Photographs or illustrations would enhance the report.

**Young Reporters who have already enrolled with us, please send in new reports for publication.**



Or



### Young Reporters Coupon

**Name:** .....

**Date of Birth:** .....

**Address:** .....

**Telephone:** .....

**School:** .....

**Parent's approval:** ..... **Date:** .....

.....

## Olive Ridley Sea Turtle

The Olive Ridley turtle is named for the generally greenish colour of its skin and shell, or carapace. It is closely related to the Kemp's ridley, with the primary distinction being that Olive ridleys are found only in warmer waters, including the southern Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.



**COMMON NAME:** Olive Ridley Sea Turtle  
**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Lepidochelys olivacea*  
**TYPE:** Reptile  
**DIET:** Omnivore  
**AVERAGE LIFE SPAN IN THE WILD:** 50 years  
**SIZE:** 2 to 2.5 feet  
**WEIGHT:** Up to 100 pounds

### Size and Weight

Olive and Kemp's ridleys are the smallest of the sea turtles, weighing up to 100 pounds and reaching only about 2 feet in shell length. The Olive ridley has a slightly smaller head and smaller shell than the Kemp's.

### Nesting Ritual

These turtles are solitary, preferring the open ocean. They migrate hundreds or even thousands of miles every year, and come together as a group only once a year for the 'arribada', when females return to the beaches where they hatched and lumber onshore, sometimes in the thousands, to nest.

Olive ridleys have nesting sites all over the world, on tropical and subtropical beaches. During nesting, they use the wind and the tide to help them reach the beach.

Females lay about a hundred eggs, but may nest up to three times a year. The nesting season is from June to December.

### Predators and Prey

The Olive ridley is mostly carnivorous, feeding on such creatures as jellyfish, snails, crabs and shrimp. They will occasionally eat algae and seaweed as well.

Hatchlings, most of which perish before reaching the ocean, are preyed on by crabs, raccoons, pigs, snakes and birds, among others. Adults are often taken by sharks.

### Threats to Survival

Though the Olive ridley is widely considered the most abundant of the marine turtles, by all estimates, it is

in trouble. Its numbers, particularly in the western Atlantic, have declined precipitously.

Many governments have protections for olive ridleys, but still, eggs are taken and nesting females are slaughtered for their meat and skin. Fishing nets also take a large toll, frequently snagging and drowning these turtles.

Source: National Geographic



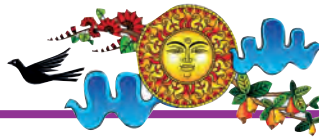
## Girls Guides release turtle hatchlings

A group of Sri Lanka Girl Guides ran a community project on the Mount Lavinia Beach, where they released 800 turtle hatchlings to the Indian Ocean, under the supervision of the Tourist Police on March 9, 2026.



Pix by Akila Jayawardena





## Artemis II blasts off

First NASA crew rockets to moon in 50 years

April 2, 2026

Hundreds of thousands of people flocked to the Florida coast in the US to witness the historic launch of Artemis II, the crewed lunar mission launched from Pad 39B at Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Spectators held their breath as engineers worked to fix an issue with a flight termination system and a launch abort system battery before takeoff commenced.

The launch was eventually given the go-ahead and Artemis II blasted off successfully.

The four astronauts on-board have since passed the Karman line – the boundary between Earth’s atmosphere and space – and are now in orbit around the Earth.

The Orion will spend two days orbiting Earth testing its systems

before heading for the moon.

Orion will then perform a trans-lunar injection burn, a propulsion move to push the spacecraft on its four-day trip to the far side of the moon – a one-way trek of about 400,000 km.

The spacecraft will travel about 7,400 km around the far side of the moon, with the journey marking the first time much of the surface has been viewed by human eyes. According to NASA, the moon will appear about the same size as a baseball held at arm’s length.

Throughout the trip, the astronauts will test the spacecraft’s systems, conduct experiments and test emergency procedures including the radiation shelter.



NASA's Artemis II Space Launch System rocket carrying the Orion spacecraft lifts off on April 1 local time, 2026 in Cape Canaveral, Florida.



The crew of Artemis II

Source: KidsNews

## Meet the Artemis II moon mission’s mascot

March 30, 2026

Say hello to Rise, a plushie that will accompany the astronauts in the Orion capsule on their Artemis II moon mission.

It was designed by an 8-year-old called Lucas, from Mountain View, California, as part of the Moon Mascot competition.

There were more than 2,600 designs sent in from over 50 countries. But this happy little fella won’t just be there for moral support, he has a very important job.

Rise is a zero gravity indicator, a small soft item that rides with the crew to show them when they are in space.



Its design was inspired by the iconic Earthrise moment from the Apollo 8 mission.

During lift off, the crew and the plushie will be pushed into the seats for the first eight minutes, but once they are in space, the astronauts will remain strapped into their seats while the plushie will float in zero gravity.

Reid Wiseman, one of the astronauts on the Artemis II mission said:

“In a spacecraft filled with complex hardware to keep the crew alive in deep space, the indicator is a friendly and useful way to highlight the human element that is so critical to our exploration of the universe.”

Source: CBBC Newsround



The image that inspired the design of Rise, the Moon mission’s mascot.



April 1

## News in Pictures

**Jiangsu province, China**

Students take part in an outdoor drawing activity during the spring break in Jiangyan district, Taizhou.



**Near Siggiewi, Malta**  
Actors take part in the crucifixion scene during the interactive street theatre Passion Play 'Il-Mixja' (The Way), one of a series of Holy Week activities in the run-up to Easter, in the gardens of Verdala Palace outside Siggiewi in Malta.

**Mosul, Iraq**

Iraqis celebrate on the streets after Iraq defeated Bolivia 2-1 in the inter-confederation playoff to qualify for the FIFA World Cup for the first time since 1986.

**Jerusalem, Israel**  
Ultra-Orthodox Jews take part in the 'Mayim Shelanu' ceremony, during which water is collected from a natural spring for the preparation of Matza, traditional unleavened bread eaten during the upcoming Jewish holiday of Passover.

**Gravelines, France**

People struggle to board a small boat in choppy waters during an attempt to cross the Channel.

**Kathmandu, Nepal**

Nepalese people of the Tamang community visit the Boudhanath Stupa to observe the Temal Festival. Thousands of devotees from across the country gathered at the UNESCO World Heritage Site to pay homage to departed loved ones.

**Paris, France**  
An electrician at work restoring the Paris Catacombs. After five months of essential renovation work, the catacombs will reopen on April 8.

**Kyoto, Japan**

A geisha takes part in a rehearsal for the annual Miyako Odori, which means Capital City Dance.

**Cape Canaveral, Florida, USA**  
NASA's Artemis II mission to fly by the moon, comprising of the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket with the Orion crew capsule, lifts off from the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

