

Lifelong
Learning
Programme

Traditions and celebrations in our country

NATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS





ITALY



CARNIVAL



In Italy the carnival is a festival of joy.

Every city has its own mask. Floats and masked groups parade through the streets.



Even schools are decorated with festoons and masks. Children learn song and dances and they consume typical cookies.



APRIL FOOLS' DAY APRIL

On April 1st the tradition wants that we should make fun of others



So, behind eye, today is the day of pranks and incredible news.



April Fool's Day is lurking everywhere, at home, in the office, on the Internet, in newspapers and on TV.



Today there is a tradition to sell chocolate in the shape of fish, while among boys it was customary to stick paper fish or notes written goliardic with the clothes of adults or peers.





LIBERATION DAY

The "Liberation Day" recalls the end of the Nazi-fascist and, of course, the liberation of Italy from the dictatorship of Mussolini (Hitler's ally) and the victory of the anti-fascist partisans who organized the resistance to regain freedom and democracy.

Just 25 April 1945 the Partisans (with the help and support of the American and British Allies) came victorious in the main city, freeing Italy and laying the foundations for a new democracy. Each year in all Italian cities are organized marches and



demonstrations to celebrate and remember the celebration of liberation. It pays tribute to all those who died in the war with laurel wreaths monuments.



ROME "ALTAR OF THE HOMELAND"

San Nicandro Garganico

"Plaque in honor of the war dead"



CELEBRATION OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC



The Festa della Repubblica Italiana is celebrated to commemorate the birth of the Italian Republic on June 2nd 1946, following the fall of Fascism and the end of World War II.

Military parade





THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY INTO HEAVEN

The Assumption of Mary into Heaven is a Catholic dogma: Mary was transferred to heaven with the soul and the body.

The Assumption of Mary is celebrated in the Catholic calendar on 15 August.

In Italy there are many celebrations for the Virgin

Mary. Among the most important festivals include:

The Palio of Siena, which runs in her honor on August 16...

...and so many other processions as

...Il Palio delle Contrade who takes at Allumiere At Avellino there are many players in the streets.

The procession of "Vara" at Messina

The Faradda di li Candareri at Sassari



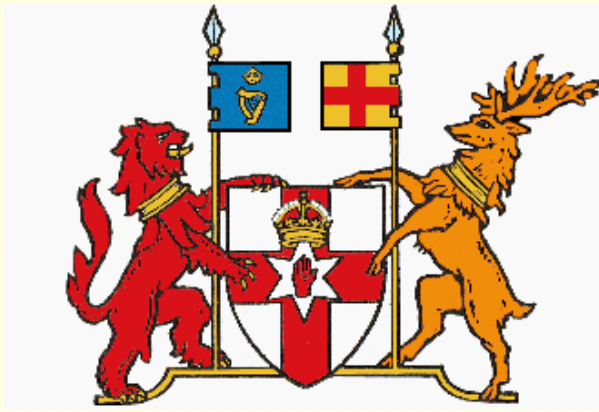
The 15th of August, in Italy, is also called "Ferragosto", it is a FREE DAY, without to work. People have trips, lavish lunches and a refreshing swim in sea water, river, lake or go to the mountains.

The dish of the "Ferragosto" is definitely the dough in the oven, the queen of family meals. But each region has its own specialty... piccione arrostito, gelu di miluna, pollo in umido con pepperoni, ciambelle dolci all'anice...



Friends play

"Gavettoni on Ferragosto"



NORTHERN IRELAND



St Patrick

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. His feast day is 17 March, when many countries around the world celebrate their Irish heritage and the influence of Irish immigrants on their culture and traditions.

Patrick was born in Britain, most probably Wales, to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. He is believed to have died on March 17, around 460 A.D. Although his father was a Christian deacon, Patrick is not believed to have come from a particularly religious family.

At the age of 16, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family's land. They brought him to Ireland where he spent six years as a slave. During this time, he worked as a shepherd, outdoors and away from people. Lonely and afraid, he turned to religion for comfort. It is also believed that Patrick began to dream of converting the Irish people to Christianity during this time.

After more than six years as a prisoner, Patrick escaped. According to his own writings, a voice, which he believed to be God's, spoke to him in a dream, telling him it was time to leave Ireland and return home.

After escaping to Britain, Patrick reported that he experienced a second dream in which an angel told him to return to Ireland as a missionary. Soon after, Patrick began 15 years of religious training. After his ordination as a priest, he was sent to Ireland with a mission: to minister to the few Christians already living in Ireland and to begin to convert the Irish.

Being familiar with the Irish language and culture, Patrick chose to incorporate traditional rituals into his lessons of Christianity instead of attempting to remove native Irish beliefs. For instance, he used bonfires to celebrate Easter since the Irish were used to honouring their gods with fire. He also superimposed a sun, a powerful Irish symbol, onto the Christian cross to create what is now called a Celtic cross, so that praise of the cross would seem more natural to the Irish. Although there were a small number of Christians on the island when Patrick arrived, most Irish practiced a nature-based pagan religion.

The Irish culture centred on a rich tradition of oral legend and myth. It is, therefore, no surprise that the story of Patrick's life became exaggerated over the centuries. Patrick is said to have chased all the snakes out of Ireland (there are no native snakes on the whole island of Ireland), but this probably refers to the serpent of sin or paganism. Legend also tells us that Patrick used the shamrock, a simple native Irish plant, to illustrate the Holy Trinity. He stated that one God contained three parts – the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the same way that one blossom could contain three equal leaves! This is the reason why many Irish people throughout the world wear shamrock on St Patrick's feast day!

A traditional Celtic Cross



Shamrock



Orangemen's Day

Many people in Northern Ireland annually celebrate Orangemen's Day to commemorate the Battle of Boyne, which occurred on Ireland's east coast in 1690. It is a bank holiday on or after July 12 and often features marches. This day is known as "Orangemen's Day", "Orange Day", "the Glorious Twelfth" or just "the Twelfth".

In many towns in Northern Ireland, marches or walks are held by organizations with a Protestant orientation. The marching season lasts from April until August but the Glorious Twelfth (of July), or Orangemen's Day, is particularly important. Many marches are organized by Lodges of the Orange Order and are accompanied by a marching band.

Participants in the walks, or marches, often wear dark suits, although they may remove their jackets if it is hot. Traditionally, they also wore black bowler hats and white gloves, although these are not as common now. The participants also wear collarettes. This type of collarette is made from a long thin piece of cloth, which is draped around the neck of the wearer and joined to form a "V" shape at the front. Many collarettes are made from orange cloth, although there may be other colours. The collarettes bear the number of the lodge that the wearer belongs to and a range of badges showing the person's positions in or degrees from the lodge.

Many lodges carry at least one flag during the marches. This is normally the Union Flag, sometimes known as the Union Jack, although some carry Scottish, Ulster or Orange Order flags. Many lodges also carry one or more banners. These display the name and number of the lodge on one side. The other side often displays images of William of Orange, deceased lodge members, local landmarks or the bible with a crown.

The Battle of the Boyne was held on July 1, 1690 on the banks of the Boyne River near the town of Drogheda on the East coast of Ireland. It was a battle between King James VII of Scotland and James II of England and Ireland and his supporters on one side and Prince William of Orange and his followers on the other side. Prince William of Orange won the battle and became King William III.

The Battle of the Boyne has been seen as symbolic of the sectarian struggles between Catholics and Protestants in Ireland. King James was seen as representing the Catholics and Prince William was seen to represent the Protestants. This gave the Battle of the Boyne an important symbolic role in Irish politics and life. However, modern analysis of documents from the time suggests that Catholics and Protestants fought on both sides. The pope of the time (Pope Alexander VIII) is also said to have supported Prince William's efforts.

Although the Battle of the Boyne is now commemorated on July 12, it was held on July 1, 1690. The shift in the date is due to the changeover from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. In Ireland, the Gregorian calendar was adopted in 1752 and September 14 followed September 2. Many dates in the calendar were mapped into the new calendar without a correction. However, the Orange orders were suspicious of the Gregorian calendar and its papist connections and continued to march on the corrected date of July 12.





Poland



Christmas

Christmas is a very special time for Poles. The most important day is Christmas Eve on December 24th. Families meet and share festive Christmas supper. Relatives and friends break the holy wafer and exchange good wishes. This is a Polish custom. We eat fish soup, mushroom soup, carp, noodles with poppy, dry stewed fruit, sauerkraut with mushroom, ravioli, ginger bread and poppy seed cake. Children look for presents under the Christmas tree. Everybody sings carols. We adorn our homes and school for Christmas. Children make ornaments, decorate Christmas trees and prepare cards for their relatives and friends.



Wesołych Świąt



Also at school we gather around a decorated table to exchange Christmas greetings and sing carols. Pupils perform Nativity play about the birth of Jesus Christ.



The church in Poland is famous for its beautiful, enormous and moving Christ-child's crib. Our schoolchildren build small cribs by themselves using wood, paper, coloured lights and even macaroni! The biggest moving crib in Europe is built in a church in Poznań.



Easter

In Christian countries, Easter is the religious holiday commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the end of Lent, during which children all over the world give up sweets and make other sacrifices in preparation for the highest festival of the church year.



In Poland, people dye eggs in bright colours to represent the sunlight of spring and then with other food they put everything in the basket and take it to church to be blessed.



In many Polish towns, every year the Passion of Christ is played by the local people.



Children made Easter “palms” from willow’s twigs and draw beautiful cards with greetings for their families and friends.

On Easter Sunday children are visited by Easter Bunny which brings them a lot of sweets. Traditional Polish Easter dishes are eggs, white borsch and cakes “baba” rich with eggs and butter and delicious “mazurka”.

Easter Monday is loved by children, especially boys, because according to Polish custom they can spill or even pour water on girls. The wettest one is considered to be the most beautiful!

Royal Mazurka Recipe

Ingredients:

6 eggs
2 2/3 cup boiling water
3 tablespoons lemon juice
3 1/4 cups flour
1/4 lb almonds, blanched, peeled and ground
3/4 lb butter, melted
1 cup apricot jam
Icing
2 cups confectioners' sugar, sifted
1 tablespoon warm water
2 teaspoons lemon juice
12 -16 servings

Preheat oven to 375 F.

Beat eggs with sugar for 10 minutes, until light and fluffy.

Mix water with lemon juice, and add to the eggs in a thin stream while beating. Beat 5 more minutes.

Add flour, almonds and butter alternately.

Mix lightly to incorporate. Divide between two baking pans.

Bake for 25 minutes or until golden.

Cool slightly, then turn them out onto a rack to completely cool.

Meanwhile make icing.

Stir warm water, lemon juice and confectioner's sugar together until the sugar completely dissolves and the icing is smooth.

It should be thick enough to coat the back of a spoon.

Add more water if necessary.

If you get too thin, add more sugar.

Spread one cake with jam, cover it with the other cake and spread the icing on the top.

Enjoy!



Spring is the season we always wait with longing. The most popular custom is “Drowning of Marzanna”. Marzanna is the symbol of winter made of tissue paper and old clothes. We are very happy to drown her in the nearby river because it means the spring is coming.



A stork is a symbol of spring in Poland. It build its nest in high branches of trees, chimneys or roofs. A stork is 1,5 meters across, and every two weeks it can lay from 3 to 6 eggs. Nestling usually hatches after 35 days.



Turkey





18th of March, The Commeration Day of Çanakkale Martries

Çanakkale was a front in the first world war. It has got a great value fort he world history.

500.000 people from the both sides of the war died in that war.

We gave 250.000 martries in that war. They didn't have enought food or Arsenal but they struggled towards the enemies with great courage. So we could win the war and show the power of Turks to the whole world.

We commemorate these brave marties and congradulate the victory of Çanakkale war on every 18th of March.

23rd Of April National Sovereignty And Children's Day

Children from all over the World come to our country on 23rd of April. Children read poems ,sing songs ,and perform folk dances. It is a very special national day because it is the unique children's day of the World. MUSTAFA KEMAL ATATÜRK opened Turkish Grand National Assembly on the 23rd of April ,1920. He gave us this day as a present . it is our national day but we celebrate it with the whole World. Because every child is special.



19th of May Youth and Sports Day

It is the youth and sports day. Atatürk went to Samsun that day and this was the beginning of Independence War. At the end of the Independence War we won our independence.

So it is really important for us. Turkish youth is the hope for the Turkish nation so Atatürk gave that day as present to them.

On every 19th of May Turkish people make celebrations and remind the importance of our freedom.



The Ramadan Feast

The Ramadan Feast in Turkey is a time for visiting relatives and showing one's respect to older people.

We treat sweets and desert to our guests during the feast. Sometimes children watch traditional Turkish shadow show, hacivat and karagöz

The Ramadan Feast is three days long and we wake up early on the first day, wear our best clothes and have a large breakfast with all the family members. As we treat sweets to our guests, Ramadan feast has an alternative name in Turkey. It is sugar feast. It is a very common tradition to visit one's relatives



30 August Victory Day

Victory Day is a common name of many different public holidays in various countries to commemorate victories in important battles or wars in the countries history.

Victory Day on August 30 is a national holiday in Turkey to commemorate the victory in the Battle of Dumlupınar, the final battle in the Turkish War of Independence in 1922



Republic Day 29th of October

We celebrate Republic Day on the 29th of October. This day is important for people living in Turkey. Atatürk declared our freedom in 1923. We celebrate this day with folk dances, poems, songs and shows in the stadium.

We love a lot to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk because in 1923, he declared Turkish Republic. Atatürk, who died in 1938, is a great leader all over the world.



Sacrifice Fest

It's Muslim's fest. It's sacrifice fest. People sacrifice cows, oxes, sheep or rams. It's precept to rich people. Because rich people must help to poor people. It's one of our religious fests.



10th of November

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was a great Turkish leader. He had cirrhosis. He died on the 10th of November, 1938 at 09:05. When he died, he was fifty seven years old. He was buried in Anıtkabir, Ankara.

The 10th of November is a mourning day for Turkish people. Because we lost our leader that day. He made many reforms and revolutions. He founded the Turkish Republic. He gave us your freedom. So he is really important for us.

Government authorities and people from all over Turkey visit Anıtkabir on every 10th of November. We commemorate Mustafa Kemal Atatürk with poems, speeches about him. As we owe our freedom to him, we will never forget his efforts for Turkey, and we will always have a deep respect to him.



Teacher's Day

Teachers have great importance for us. They are the model people for the students. They give lots of effort to make our future better. They help families about their children.

So we celebrate the 24th of November as Teacher's Day. We show our love and respect towards them not only this week but also the whole year. We love them very much.



