

Om Sri Sai Ram

Hinduism & Christianity



SAI DHARMAM

Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Cooksville

WHAT IS EASTER AND GOOD FRIDAY?

Good Friday, also known as "Holy Friday," is the Friday immediately preceding Easter Sunday. It is celebrated traditionally as the day on which Jesus was crucified. Christians may attend special church services, even if they do not attend church regularly during the rest of the year. Good Friday is a day of mourning and quiet prayer among many Christians. The candles are often extinguished and statues, paintings and crosses may be draped in black, purple or gray cloth. Some Catholics observe a partial fast on Good Friday and do not eat any meat. For Canadians who

are not Christians, Good Friday is the start of a three or four-day weekend. This is a welcome spring break, which some people use to visit family or friends.

The meaning of Easter is Jesus Christ's victory over death. His resurrection symbolizes the eternal life that is granted to all who believe in Him. The meaning of Easter also symbolizes all that Jesus preached and taught during His three-year ministry. If He had not risen from the dead and had merely died and not been resurrected, He would have been considered just another teacher. However, His resurrection

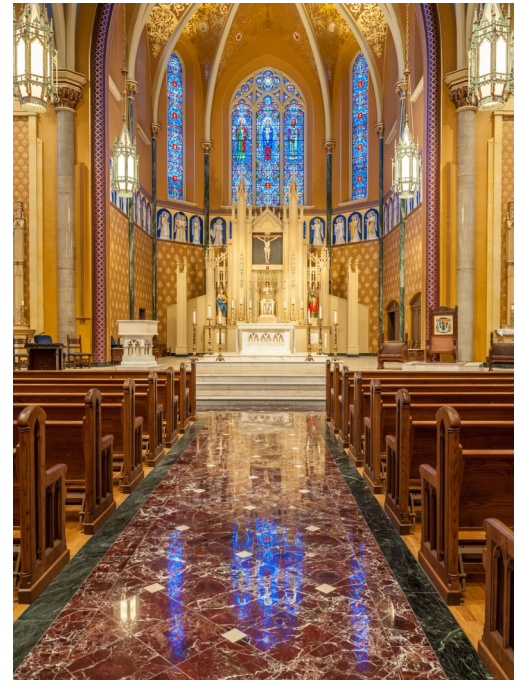
changed all that and gave final, irrefutable proof that He was really the Son of God and that He had conquered death once and for all.

However, Easter did not always symbolize Christ's resurrection from the dead; the meaning of Easter was quite different than what Christians celebrate today. The feast day of Easter was originally a pagan celebration of renewal and rebirth. It honored the pagan Saxon goddess Eostre. Since it fell around the same time as the traditional memorial of Christ's resurrection from the dead, it was merged with the pagan celebrations and became known as Easter.

DEVOTEE SPEAKS: EDUCATIONAL COMPARISON BETWEEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND SSE TEACHINGS

I have been an SSE student for three years now and it has been three amazing and educational years. When I entered a Catholic high school last year, the learning of the Catholic religion which SSE has touched base on had helped me. The difference between the teachings at SSE and at Catholic School, is that SSE talks not only about Hinduism but also talks about multiple religions and celebrations. Being a Hindu in 10th grade at a Catholic High School, they don't touch base on the religions around the world until 11th grade. SSE is not only a religious class but we also get taught ways to deal with issues like stress, time management, etc. The teachers and other students at SSE are people who are open to talk to and are there to help; just like most of the teachers at a Catholic school. There are teachers at school who

you may not be able to be open, mainly because you don't know them as well and you only see the teacher side of them unlike SSE where it is like a family. The only other negative thing about Catholic School education, is that teachers manage to bring religion into every subject including English and Science almost disregarding the fact that there are non-Catholic students in their classes. Catholic School teachings are still very helpful and even though it's all about Jesus Christ, the teachers teach well. The only thing that they can do better is to be more open about other religions and acknowledge the fact that because there are students from other cultural backgrounds they can touch base on the other cultures early on in high school. SSE teaches us how to be a better person and the importance of helping. They teach



us how to get involved in our own communities by volunteering, helping out others, spending time with elders, etc. They encourage us to do all this on our own time and not when we are being forced to volunteer for hours from school.

SIMILARITIES BETWEEN SWAMI AND JESUS

Jesus and Baba are two different people but are the same in many ways. You might think that all Gods are similar, but Jesus and Baba have a unique tie with each other. Jesus went around loving people and healing the sick and poor. Sai Baba too, does this by serving mankind every second of his life. Jesus and Baba both teach and enlighten others with their knowledge, in the same way. Both understand the purpose of life in the same way. The meaning of the cross is the removal of ego! The vertical stroke represents birth and death, and the horizontal stroke represents the canceling of ego. Baba's understanding is similar, "the sole purpose of your

incarnation is the execution of the ego on the altar of compassion." The teaching of both is simple and complicated but yet so divine. Christ taught the masses in tales, yet astounded the scholars and theologians with the insight of his knowledge. Baba also taught the people in tales and stories, yet while explaining the most complex articles in the vedas to India's professors at the age of 10. Sai Baba and Jesus both have the same divine appeal with no ego or other negative aspects of themselves. Christ had no pride, artificiality, or ego, and was only motivated by love which shines from him, causing others to see him and be blind sighted by his love and



grace. Sai Baba has a similar effect! The sight of him can instantly transform people's soul, and deliver joy to you by the sight of him. Some say that Jesus is from a different religion and cannot be associated with Baba but that is not true. There is only one religion, the religion of Love.

MAHASAMADHI

Aum Sri Sairam,

The word Mahasamadhi means not only the conscious departure from the physical body of a realized soul but also the shrine where the physical body is buried. April 27 was the most sacred day when the Sai Kulwant hall was transformed into Maha Samadhi mandir of our dearest Bhagawan. Our beloved Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, elected to leave his physical form in the morning hours, at 7.40 am, April 24, 2011 and is not confined by the demise of the physical presence and identity that he assumed, nor is he constrained by time. He will be with us forever. "Why fear when I am here?" declared our Beloved Swami. He has always been and will continue to be present as the Divine In-dweller who resides in our spiritual hearts. Being "here" refers to His Spiritual Presence, not His Physical Presence. He will always be "here". This has not changed. "Here" is everywhere and forever. "Here" is accessible to each one of us in our own hearts. To be with Him "Here" and now, we must choose faith, not fear. We can accomplish everything, the fulfillment of our spiritual destiny that He ordained, by devoting our lives to Him and to His Divine Message of selfless love and service. Now He lives only in our spiritual hearts, as the Lord of Lords. Now, we must turn inward to experience His Divine Presence and Love. Swami has come to demonstrate how we should live these human lives. He has come for the awakening of conscience and selfless love in the minds and hearts of all people. To Love all, serve all. To Help ever, hurt never. Sri Sathya Sai Organizations are based on these spiritual principles that He has provided. We will certainly persevere. We must listen to our hearts with spiritual self-confidence. His Lessons for mankind will not be forgotten or forsaken. Our spiritual lives, our noble actions, and our selfless love will become worthy testaments to His Divine Presence among us. Lord of Lords, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Divine Mother and Father, may we always love You unwaveringly and always follow You without faltering, and always find You in our heart of hearts.

Sathya Sai devotees all over the world are observing Aradhana Mahotsavam on Wednesday April 24th, 2019 by remembering Him for His unconditional divine love and blessings. On this auspicious occasion Let us all celebrate it at our Centre on Wednesday April 24th, 2019 expressing our gratitude by practicing His teachings and participating in His divine mission.

I have come to light the lamp of love in your hearts, to see that it shines day by day with added luster. I have come to tell you of this universal, unitary faith, this spiritual principle, this path of love, this duty of love, this obligation to love... Baba

C P M
 M Q H U A E
 C G I Z U Q I I L
 L T N X W Y U B T
 W C E J D K S Z M B
 Q C M X R W I O N E
 W A A M A F X B P A S T J L D W G A I J Z P
 E M C L K E C D M W M N O N T T U D Y E H P
 I A Z V B O L I A W H L G F R Q S O Y E
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 C C U I T L I N B
 V O X X I S G L A E F L G
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 J U E N E J G T A C H T K C O Y G V X
 H W D D T B J H V Z L D C V O P Y S S J D
 C A L S Y T A Z N E B K L B N Y P Y A W Y
 N Z U A A F U T M H H H R T N O Q A M X L H C
 I Q E C L O D P E C J J G Z A J J O F S L
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 N Q G Y O W E H C A S R H A X
 C N A B S C X G B J A
 A G Z D V T
 E R D
 R E I

JESUS
 SWAMI
 AMEN
 LORD
 HOLY
 EASTER
 CHURCH
 BETHLEHEM
 GOLGOTHA
 LOVE

CHRISTIAN PRAYER

Our Father,
 who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name;
 thy kingdom come;
 thy will be done
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

Amen.

