




# **EASTER IN POLAND**



CARNIVAL → KARNAWAŁ

→ FAT THURSDAY → TŁUSTY CZWARTEK

→ OSTATKI

→ ASH WEDNESDAY → ŚRODA POPIELCOWA

→ 40 DAY LENT → POST

→ PALM SUNDAY → NIEDZIELA PALMOWA

→ HOLY WEEK → WIELKI TYDZIEŃ

→ EASTER → WIELKANOC

HOLY WEEK (PRECEDED BY 40 DAYS OF LENT)

PALM SUNDAY (NIEDZIELA PALMOWA)

HOLY MONDAY (WIELKI PONIEDZIAŁEK)

HOLY TUESDAY (WIELKI WTOREK)

HOLY WEDNESDAY (WIELKA ŚRODA)

HOLY THURSDAY (WIELKI CZWARTEK)

GOOD FRIDAY (WIELKI PIĄTEK)

HOLY SATURDAY (WIELKA SOBOTA)

EASTER DAY (NIEDZIELA WIELKANOCNA)

+ EASTER MONDAY (PONIEDZIAŁEK WIELKANOCNY:  
LANY PONIEDZIAŁEK / ŚMIGUS DYNGUS)



Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday.

Prior to this day, people buy (or make) colourful palms that they bring to the church so that the priest can consecrate them.

The palms are usually made of hay, paper, flowers and ribbons.

The palms are later on kept home and used as a decoration for Easter. Then they are brought to church, burned and the ash is used next year during Ash Wednesday.



**PALM SUNDAY**

**(NIEDZIELA  
PALMOWA)**









There are many regional traditions related to making palms and celebrating Palm Sunday.

# EATING WILLOW CATKINS



ŚLĄSK

(SILESIA REGION)

In Silesia, people eat catkins in order to ensure good luck for next year and to make sure that the harvest is good.

It used to be more popular in the past, now not so much.



# HIGHLANDERS' PALMS

MOUNTAIN  
REGIONS

PODHALE



In some mountain regions in Poland, the palms are not small, light and delicate.

On the contrary, górale (highlanders) build palms by decorating tree trunks.

Each year, there are traditional competitions for the tallest palm.









# PALMY KURPIOWSKIE - KURPIE PALMS



KURPIOWSZCZYZNA  
REJON KURPIOWSKI  
(KURPIE REGION)

The small region of Kurpie in Poland is known for its unusual and rich traditions.

They organize competitions for the most beautiful palms.

Their palms are mostly made of colourful tissue-paper.



Nasza Szkoła Domowa





# „PUCHEROKI”



KRAKÓW  
SURROUNDING  
VILLAGES

„Pucheroki” is a tradition in the Cracow region.

Young children (traditionally only boys) get dressed up, put on colourful, tall hats and walk around the neighbourhood while singing special songs and reciting poems.

In return, they receive small rewards, usually eggs or other foods.







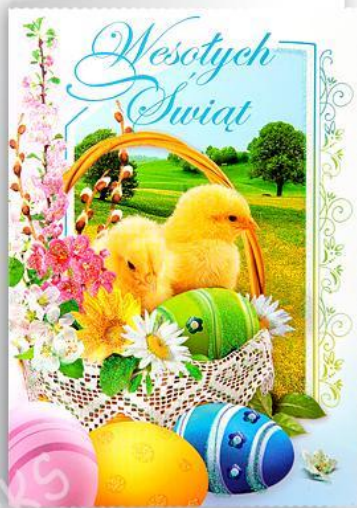
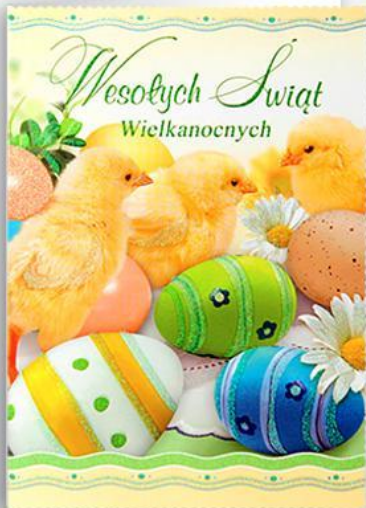




# EASTER CARDS

The tradition of sending family and friends Easter cards is, unfortunately, slowly disappearing.

People nowadays prefer sending wishes via email or text messages.





**HOLY WEEK**

# HOLY WEEK

- each day  
celebrates a  
different event  
from the Bible



## NIEDZIELA PALMOWA

Jezus wśród wiwatującego tłumu wjeżdża na osiołku do Jerozolimy



## WIELKI PONIEDZIAŁEK

Jezus odwiedza przyjaciół w Betanii. Maria namaszcza Go „na dzień Jego pogrzebu”



## WIELKI WTOREK

Jezus zapowiada zdradę Judasza i zaparcie się Piotra.



## WIELKA ŚRODA

Judasz dobija targu z arcykapłanami - wyda Jezusa za 30 srebrników.



## WIELKI CZWARTEK

Ostatnia Wieczerza. Jezus ustanawia sakramenty Eucharystii i kapłaństwa. Potem modli się w Ogrójcu. Tam zostaje pojmany.



## WIELKI PIĄTEK

Proces Jezusa zakończony wyrokiem śmierci. Droga na Golgotę i ukrzyżowanie. Jezus umiera. Jego ciało zostaje złożone w grobie.



## WIELKA SOBOTA

Jezus zstępuje do Otchłani.



## WIELKA NOC

Chrystus powstaje z martwych!



There are many traditions connected with each  
day.

Wielki Piątek  
(Good Friday)

# THE WIESZANIE ŚLEDZIA I POGRZEB ŻURU (HANGING THE HERRING AND THE SOUR SOUP BURIAL)



KUJAWY

- an old tradition that nowadays is celebrated only as an attraction for children.

People used to officially say goodbye to the 40 day fast by getting rid of the food that they ate during that time.

They buried the traditional soup in the ground and hung the herring on a tree.





**WAY OF THE CROSS  
(DROGA KRZYŻOWA)**

Way of the cross is a special event in the church that includes walking from one 'station' to another while praying.

Each 'station' represents an event that preceded Jesus's death.

There are 14 of them, they might be located inside the church, on the walls, or outside, in special places.









# **EKSTREMALNA DROGA KRZYŻOWA**

## **EXTREME WAY OF THE CROSS**

**- is a special event, instead of walking inside or near the church, people take a 40 km walk at night, all alone, through tough terrain.**

**It is supposed to be a proof of strong faith.**

**It is ususally done by young people.**







**GRÓB PAŃSKI I STRAŻ  
GROBOWA**

**GRAVE GUARDS**

In each church in Poland, prior to Easter, people and the priests build a representation of the grave in which Jesus was buried.

The grave is protected by special guards that rotate shifts throughout the day.

The guards are usually firefighters, policemen or scouts.









# TURKI



# PODKARPACIE

Turki is a name for special type of grave guards.

They are dressed in clothes that are supposed to be similar to the ones used by Turkish soldiers.

In 1683 there was a great Battle of Vienna.

The Ottoman Empire was defeated by joined forces, including Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth soldiers.

Soldiers that took part in the battle, returned home dressed in their enemies' armours and clothes – they took it as a reward.

The return coincided with Easter and when they got home, soldiers went straight to the church to keep guard.

Hence, the tradition to dress up as the Turks.













**HOLY SATURDAY  
(WIELKA SOBOTA)**

Holy Saturday is a day on which people prepare special baskets with food that they bring with them to the church so that the priest can consecrate it.

The consecration doesn't take a long time – it's usually done every 15 minutes throughout the day.

People bring the baskets, put them on a special table and wait for the priest to consecrate them.



**EASTER BASKET**  
**(ŚWIĘCONKA)**

The basket is made of wicker and decorated with green boxwood twigs and a white cloth.



In each basket, there should be a number of specific items.

Each one of them has a meaning.

The food that is in the basket has to be eaten during Easter in order to bring the family good fortune.



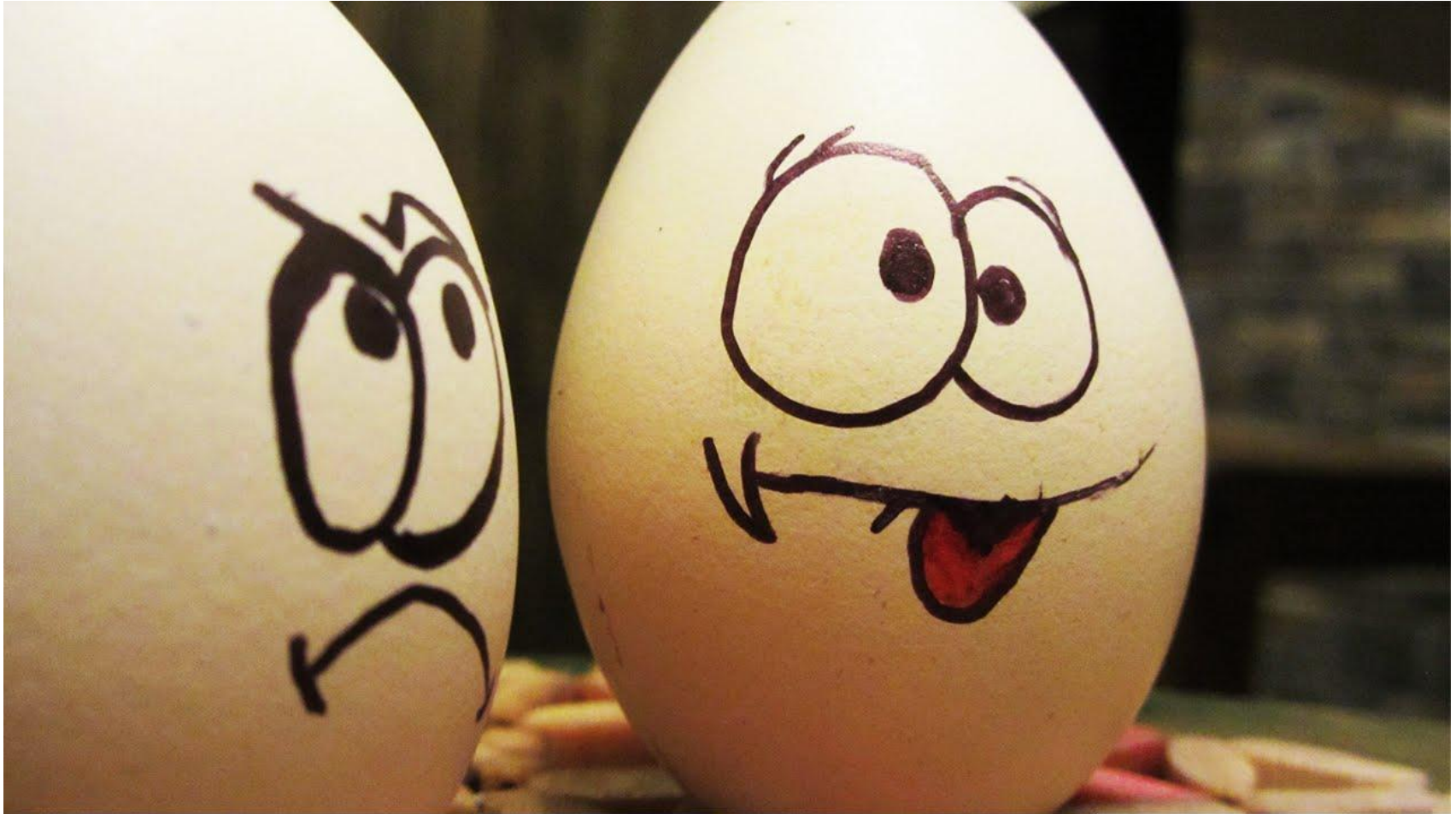
# 1. SUGAR LAMB (BARANEK CUKROWY)



Sometimes the lamb is made of butter.

It is very rarely made of pastry or plastic.

## 2. EASTER EGGS (PISANKI)



### 3. BREAD (CHLEB)



## 4. HAM / SAUSAGE (WĘDLINA / KIEŁBASA)



## 5. (SALT \*AND PEPPER) SÓL \*I PIEPRZ



## 6. HORSERADISH (CHRZAN)



## 7. EASTER CAKE (BABA WIELKANOCNA)





## 8. \* BUTTER (MASŁO)

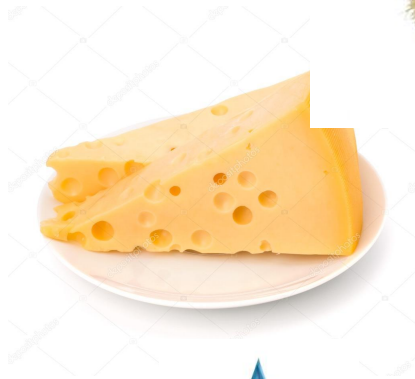


Some people also add:

\* CHICK / EASTER BUNN  
(KURCZAK / ZAJĄC)



\* SER (CHEESE)



\* WODA (WATER)









**EASTER EGGS  
(PISANKI)**

Each household prepares pisanki in advance. It is a tradition, but also a fun activity especially for children who very often decorate eggs in schools and kindergartens.

There are many styles and methods of decorating eggs: colouring, drawing, putting on stickers...



There are some traditional styles of making  
pisanki know across Poland.



# KRASZANKI



Kraszanki are simple – they are eggs dyed with natural or artificial dye.

# DRAPANKI



Drapanki are first dyed (usually with onion water) and then wax is used to create patterns.

Hot wax is left to dry and then scratched off the surface, leaving light patterns.



**NALEPIANKI**

Nalepianki are created by sticking colourful paper and stickers on eggs, usually creating some traditional, regional patterns and images.

# OKLEJANKI



Oklejanki are made by glueing wool, strings and other fabric to the egg.



# AŽURKI



Azurki are made by carefully carving eggs, creating intricately decorated and very delicate pisanki.



**EASTER DAY**  
**(NIEDZIELA WIELKANOCNA)**

On Easter, religious people go to church usually at 6AM to take part in a special mass called „Rezurekcja”, which celebrates Jesus’s resurrection.

A figure of Jesus is brought to the church during the mass.





**EASTER BREAKFAST**  
**(ŚNIADANIE WIELKANOCNE)**

The whole family gathers in one house in the morning and begins the celebration with an official, long breakfast that usually turns into dinner and dessert, sometimes continues until supper.

The table is decorated with white cloth, pisanki, palms, green and yellow decorations.





At the beginning, the oldest person says greetings and shares previously consecrated eggs with the family.



There are certain dishes that usually appear in every house in Poland on Easter.



ŽUREK  
(SOUR SOUP)



# PIECZONA SZYNKA (ROASTED HAM)



WIĘCEJ NIŻ  
ZDROWE ODŻYWIANIE



**BIAŁA  
KIEŁBASA  
(WHITE  
SAUSAGE)**



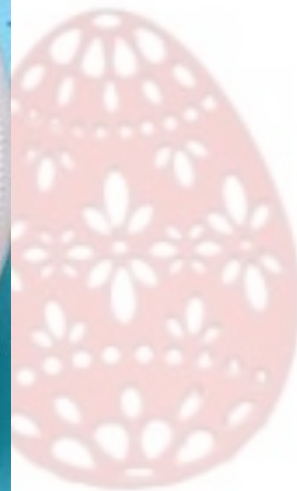
**JAJKA  
FASZEROWANE**

**(STUFFED  
EGGS)**











TALERZ  
Z  
MIĘSEM  
I SERAMI

MEAT  
AND  
CHEESE  
PLATE



# SAŁATKA JARZYNOWA

(COOKED  
VEGGIES  
SALAD)



# PASZTET (PATE)





# BABA WIELKANOCNA (EASTER CAKE)



**PASCHA  
(PASKHA)**



**MAKOWIEC  
(POPPY  
SEED  
CAKE)**





# MAZUREK



Mazurek is a traditional cake prepared only for Easter. It is usually beautifully decorated.


There are many types of this cake, but usually it is made with short pastry and lots of dried fruit and nuts, as well as chocolate and jam.











**EASTER MONDAY**  
**(PONIEDZIAŁEK WIELKANOCNY)**  
**(LANY PONIEDZIAŁEK /**  
**ŚMIGUS-DYNGUS)**

Easter Monday is a fun day in Poland.  
It's usually the day on which people visit relatives  
and eat the remaining Easter food.

On this day, people pour water on each other.  
It can be just a sprinke from a water gun, or a full  
bucket of water, but everyone should get at least a  
bit wet on this day.  
No one is safe.





Traditionally, it was young men pouring water on  
young women.

It was supposed to bring good luck and a good  
husband to the woman.



Now, people pour water on each other in houses  
and on the street.

They pour water on family, friends and complete  
strangers.





Each year in Kazimierz Dolny, a city near Lublin, local firefighters pour water on people gathered on the main square of the city.

They use firetrucks.











**DO ZOBACZENIA!**