Welcome to this episode – Pâques

Easter in French is Pâques. This episode will teach you some key words and information about Easter in France as well as a simple song and rhyme.

Let’s find out a few facts about Easter in France

France is by tradition a religious country and many people still see Easter as an important event in the religious calendar. In France, the church bells ring joyfully throughout the year. But the bells (les cloches) stop ringing on Good Friday (Vendredi Saint) when they fly off to the Vatican in Rome. They are meant to be, carrying with them the grief of the crucifixion which happened on that day. The bells do not ring from Good Friday to Easter morning, when the bells ring out again, telling people that Jesus is alive. These flying bells (les cloches volantes) return on Easter Sunday morning and bring with them lots of chocolate.

Now let’s try some of those words

Ecoutez et répétez

The bells | pause | les cloches | pause | les cloches
Good Friday | pause | Vendredi Saint | pause | Vendredi Saint
The flying bells | pause | les cloches volantes | pause | les cloches volantes
Children wake up on Easter Sunday (le dimanche de Pâques) and find Easter eggs (les œufs de Pâques) scattered about their house or garden. The eggs are said to have been brought from Rome. The traditional English Easter bunnies are not found in France. Instead, the tradition incorporates chocolate eggs (les œufs en chocolat), chocolate chickens (les poules en chocolat), chocolate bells (les cloches en chocolat) and chocolate fish (les poissons en chocolat). The French wish each other Joyeuses Pâques – Happy Easter!

*Here are some more words to do with Easter*

Ecoutez et répétez

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
<td>le dimanche de Pâques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Eggs</td>
<td>les œufs de Pâques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chocolate eggs</td>
<td>les œufs en chocolat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chocolate chicks</td>
<td>les poules en chocolat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chocolate bells</td>
<td>les cloches en chocolat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chocolate fish</td>
<td>les poissons en chocolat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happy Easter</td>
<td>Joyeuses Pâques</td>
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The French Easter fish are called *poisson d'avril*, which literally means 'April fish'. The poisson d'avril makes his appearance on the 1st of April, as French children delight in playing a kind of 'April fool's' trick. They stick a paper fish onto the back of as many adults as possible.

Lamb is traditionally cooked for Easter in France. *Le gigot d'agneau* (leg of lamb) is prepared in many household in France. Among the traditional recipes, lamb stew with spring vegetables is very popular. The word for spring in French is **printemps**.

*Now have a go at the final words*

Ecoutez et répétez

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April fool</td>
<td>poisson d'avril</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leg of lamb</td>
<td>le gigot d'agneau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>printemps</td>
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Activity 1

Here is a very simple Easter song to the tune of ‘il court le furet’.

La belle cloche de Pâques
Qu’est-ce qu’elle m’apportera?
La belle cloche de Pâques
Qu’est-ce qu’elle m’apportera?
(What are the Easter bells bringing me?
What are the Easter bells bringing me?)

Des gros œufs en chocolat
Des poules aussi il y aura
Tous cachés par-ci par-là
(Some big chocolate eggs and there will be chickens too
all hidden here and there)

Pour moi, pour moi
J’en trouverai plus que trois
(All for me, all for me
I am going to find more than three)

Activity 2

Here’s a simple poem about a little rabbit. You will find the English translation on the .pdf file.

Lapin malin

Lapin malin,
Lapin coquin,
Lapin chagrin,
Lapin taquin,
Lapin câlin,
Lapin lapin,
De la tête aux pieds
Jusqu’au bout du nez.

Clever rabbit
Clever rabbit,
Mischiefous rabbit,
Sad rabbit,
Playful rabbit,
Affectionate rabbit,
A rabbit through and through,
From your head to your feet
To the tip of your nose.

Children could use this model to write a simple poem about other animals. They would simply need to change the name of the animal and choose some alternative adjectives to describe it.

That’s the end of this episode.
Au revoir. À bientôt.
Bye and listen in again soon.
Au revoir. À bientôt.