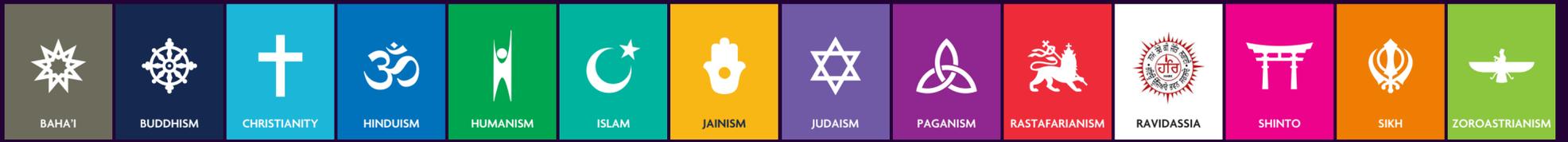


Faith calendar 2026



JANUARY

- 1 **Gantan-sai** A three-day Shinto festival welcoming the New Year.
- 3 **Mahayana** Celebrates the Buddhist New Year.
- 5 **Birth of Guru Gobind Singh** Celebrating the tenth Sikh Guru and founder of the Khalsa.
- 6 **Epiphany** Celebrates the visit of the Three Wise Men to Jesus.
- Christmas Day (celebrated in Ethiopia)** Celebrated to align with the Ethiopian calendar.
- 7 **Christmas Day (Eastern Orthodox)** Observed by Eastern Orthodox Christians based on the Julian calendar.
- 12 **Birth of Swami Vivekananda** Celebrating the birth of a notable Indian spiritual leader.
- 13 **Maghi/Lohri** A Sikh festival honouring the sacrifice of 40 Sikhs for Guru Gobind Singh, celebrated with bonfires.
- 13 **LOHRI** A cultural festival celebrated as the end of the winter. It is a traditional welcome of longer days.
- 13 **Pongal** A Hindu harvest festival in Tamil Nadu thanking the Sun God for a bountiful harvest.
- 14 **Makar Sankranti** Marks the Sun's transition from Sagittarius to Capricorn, signalling the end of winter.
- 15 **Lailat al-Miraj** An Islamic observance of the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem.
- 23 **Saraswati Puja** A celebration of the Hindu goddess of knowledge, music, and arts.

MAY

- 1 **Beltane** A pagan celebration marking the beginning of summer.
- 1 **Vesak** Celebrating the enlightenment of the Buddha.
- 2 **Twelfth Day of Ridvan** Marks the conclusion of the Ridvan festival.
- 4 **Lag Ba'Omer** A Jewish holiday marking the end of a plague among Rabbi Akiva's students.
- Chatti Sharif** Commemorates the death anniversary of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, a revered Sufi saint.
- 14 **Ascension Day** Marks Jesus Christ's ascension into Heaven.
- 21 **Shavuot (1-3)** Celebrating the giving of the Torah and the first harvest.
- Pentecost/Whitsun** A Christian celebration of the Holy Spirit's appearance.
- Hajj** The annual pilgrimage to Makkah, a major Islamic obligation.
- 24 **Buddha's Birthday** Honouring Siddhartha Gautama's birth.
- Declaration of the Báb** Celebrating the Báb's announcement in the Bahá'í faith.
- Yawm Arafat** A day of repentance during Hajj.
- 26 **Eid al-Adha** Marks the sacrifice made by Prophet Abraham (PBUH).
- 29 **Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh** Commemorating Bahá'u'lláh's passing.

SEPTEMBER

- 1 **First Reading of Guru Granth Sahib** Commemorates the first installation of the Sikh scripture.
- 4 **Janmashtami** Celebrating the birth of Lord Krishna.
- Rosh Hashanah** The Jewish New Year, marking the start of repentance.
- 11 **Enkutatash** The Ethiopian New Year with prayers and processions.
- 14 **Ganesh Chaturthi** A Hindu festival commemorating Lord Ganesha's birth.
- 15 **Samvatsari** A Jain festival known as the "Day of Forgiveness."
- 20 **Yom Kippur** The holiest Jewish day, marked by a 25-hour fast for atonement.
- Gyarvi Sharif** Commemorates the death anniversary of Abdul Qadir Jilani, a revered Sufi saint.
- 23 **Autumn Equinox** A pagan tradition celebrating day and night balance.
- 25 **Sukkot** Jewish Feast of Tabernacles, celebrating harvest and the wilderness journey.
- 26 **Mahalaya** Marks the beginning of Navratri, invoking Goddess Durga.

FEBRUARY

- 1 **Imbolc** A pagan festival honouring the goddess Brigid and the return of spring.
- 1 **Shri Guru Ravidass Ji's birthday**
- Candlemas** Commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple and Mary's purification.
- 2 **Tu B'Shevat** The Jewish "New Year for Trees," celebrating the environment.
- Sri Satguru Ram Singh Ji's Birth Anniversary** Celebrating the revered Namdhari Sikh leader.
- 3 **Setsubun** A Japanese ritual driving away evil spirits.
- Parinirvana** Celebrating Buddha's final passing into Nirvana.
- 15 **Maha Shivaratri** A Hindu festival dedicated to Lord Shiva, observed with prayers and fasting.
- Shrove Tuesday** The day before Lent, marked by feasting on pancakes.
- 17 **Ramadan** Start of the Islamic holy month of fasting.
- Chinese New Year** Celebrating the Year of the Snake, an important traditional holiday
- 18 **Ash Wednesday** The first day of Lent, marked by church services.
- 25 **Ayyám-i-Há**: A Bahá'í celebration of hospitality and charity before fasting.

JUNE

- 4 **Corpus Christi** Celebrating the presence of Christ in the Eucharist.
- Al-Hijra** The first day of Muharram and the Islamic New Year.
- 16 **Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev** Commemorating the first Sikh martyr.
- 20 **Midsummer's Day** A pagan celebration of the sun's power.
- 21 **World Humanist Day** Promoting the values of humanism.
- 25 **Ashura** An Islamic observance of Moses's salvation and Imam Hussein's martyrdom.
- 29 **Feast of Saints Peter & Paul** Celebrating the martyrdom of these apostles.

OCTOBER

- 2 **Shemini Atzeret** Closing festival after Sukkot, focused on prayers for rain.
- 3 **Simchat Torah** Marks the end and start of the Torah reading cycle.
- Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji Day** Celebrates Guru Gobind Singh Ji passing the Guruship to the Holy Scriptures.
- 20 **Durga Puja-Dussehra** Culmination of Navratri, celebrating Goddess Durga's victory
- 31 **Samhain** Pagan festival marking the end of harvest and beginning of winter.

MARCH

- 1 **St David's Day** Celebrates the patron saint of Wales
- 2 **Nineteen Day Fast** A Bahá'í period of fasting for spiritual reflection.
- Purim** A Jewish festival commemorating deliverance as told in the Book of Esther.
- 3 **Magha Puja** A Buddhist celebration honouring Buddha's teachings.
- Birth of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu** Celebrating the Hindu saint and founder of Gaudiya Vaishnavism
- 4 **Hola Mohalla** A Sikh martial arts festival showcasing community strength.
- Holi** A Hindu festival celebrating the end of winter.
- 16 **Laylat al-Qadr** The Night of Power, marking the Quran's revelation.
- 17 **St Patrick's Day** Celebrating the patron saint of Ireland.
- Eid al-Fitr** Marks the end of Ramadan, celebrated with prayers and festive meals.
- 19 **Chaitra Navratri** A Hindu festival commemorating the creation of the cosmos.
- Navratri** Nine nights of devotion to Goddess Durga.
- 20 **Spring Equinox** Celebrating the start of spring in pagan traditions.
- 21 **Naw-Rúz** The Bahá'í New Year, marking the end of the Nineteen Day Fast.
- 26 **Khordad Sal** A Zoroastrian festival celebrating the birth of their prophet.
- Ram Navami** Celebrating the birth of Lord Rama.
- 29 **Palm Sunday** Marks the start of Holy Week, commemorating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.
- 31 **Mahavir Jayanti** Celebrating the birth of Lord Mahavira, known for non-violence.

JULY

- 10 **Martyrdom of the Báb** A Bahá'í observance marking the Báb's execution.
- 16 **Jagannath Rath Yatra** A public procession dedicated to Lord Jagannath.
- 22 **Tisha B'Av** A Jewish day of mourning for the destruction of the Temples.
- 23 **Birth of Emperor Haile Selassie I** A holy day for Rastafarians.
- 29 **Guru Purnima Day** Honouring spiritual teachers.
- Asalha-Dharma Day** Commemorating the Buddha's first sermon.

NOVEMBER

- 1 **All Saints Day** Honours all saints in Christian history.
- 2 **All Souls Day** Commemorates the faithful departed, especially loved ones.
- Bandi Chhor Divas** A Sikh celebration of the peaceful release of 52 kings and princes by Guru Hargobind
- 8 **Diwali** Hindu Festival of Lights, symbolising the triumph of light.
- Lakshmi Puja** Significant day of Diwali, worshipping Goddess Lakshmi.
- Inter Faith Week (8-15)** Promotes understanding and cooperation among faiths.
- 10 **Birth of the Báb** Celebrates the Báb's birthday, forerunner of the Bahá'í faith.
- 11 **Birth of Bahá'u'lláh** Honours the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, co-founder of Bahá'í.
- 15 **Shichi-Go-San** Shinto festival celebrating children's growth and well-being.
- 22 **Solemnity of Christ the King** Catholic festival recognising Jesus as sovereign.
- Guru Nanak Gururab** Celebrates the birth of Guru Nanak, Sikhism's founder.
- 24 **Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib** Commemorates the 9th Sikh Guru's sacrifice for religious freedom.
- 26 **Day of the Covenant** Celebrates `Abdu'l-Bahá's appointment in Bahá'í faith.
- 28 **Ascension of `Abdu'l-Bahá** Commemorates `Abdu'l-Bahá's death.
- 29 **Advent Sunday** Marks the start of the Advent season, preparing for Jesus' birth.
- 30 **Saint Andrew's Day** Feast day for Scotland's patron saint.

APRIL

- Passover** Celebrating the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt.
- 1 **Hanuman Jayanti** Celebrating the birth of Hanuman, the Monkey God.
- 2 **Maundy Thursday** Commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus.
- 3 **Good Friday** Commemorating Jesus' crucifixion.
- 6 **Easter Sunday** Celebrating the resurrection of Jesus.
- 8 **Hanamatsuri** A festival celebrating the birthday of Shakyamuni.
- 12 **Easter Day (Orthodox Christianity)** Celebrated by Eastern Orthodox Christians.
- Vaisakhi** A major Sikh festival celebrating the Khalsa's formation.
- 14 **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's birthday anniversary**
- 19 **Akshaya Tritiya** An auspicious day in the Hindu calendar for new beginnings.
- 21 **First Day of Ridván** A Bahá'í festival celebrating Bahá'u'lláh's prophethood.
- 23 **St George's Day** Celebrating the patron Saint of England.
- 29 **Ninth Day of Ridván** Celebrating Bahá'u'lláh's family joining him during Ridván.

AUGUST

- 1 **Lughnasadh** A pagan festival marking the harvest season.
- 13 **Obon Festival** A Japanese festival honouring ancestors.
- 15 **The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** A Catholic feast celebrating Mary's assumption into heaven.
- 25 **Mawlid un Nabi** An Islamic observance of the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) birth.
- 28 **Raksha Bandhan** A Hindu festival celebrating sibling bonds.

DECEMBER

- 4 **Hanukkah** An eight-day festival celebrating the rededication of Jerusalem's Second Temple and the miracle of the menorah.
- Mary's Immaculate Conception** Catholic feast celebrating Mary's conception without original sin.
- 8 **Bodhi Day** Commemorates Siddhartha Gautama's enlightenment under the Bodhi tree.
- Human Rights Day** Marks the 1948 adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the UN.
- Geeta Jayanti** Celebrates the birthday of the Bhagavad Gita, recording Lord Krishna's teachings.
- 20 **Asarah B'Tevet** A fast commemorating the siege of Jerusalem by King Nebuchadnezzar.
- 21 **Yule** Pagan festival marking the winter solstice and the rebirth of the sun.
- Birth of Holy Mother Sarada Devi** Commemorates the birthday of the Hindu mystic and companion of Sri Ramakrishna.
- 24 **Christmas Eve** Preparation time for celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.
- 25 **Christmas Day** Celebrates Jesus' birth with gifts, festive meals, and religious services.

Dates used are correct to the best of our knowledge. Some may vary regionally because they are determined by the lunar or lunisolar calendar. Some may be subject to confirmation of sighting of the crescent moon. Some may begin the evening before the listed date. Sikh dates are based on Nanak Shahi calendar. Some festivals take place over several days, please consult resources specific to each festival for guidance.