

## **2023 MULTIFAITH CALENDAR**

The following are major holy days and festivals for Baha'i, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism and Sikhism. Whilst this list is not exhaustive it is comprehensive to represent each of the religions in good faith.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Local or regional customs may use a variation of this date.

MONTH	DAY & DATE	HOLY DAY OR FESTIVAL	RELIGION	
January	Thursday 5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji	Sikhism	
		708), the 10th and final Sikh master, created to declared the Scriptures (Guru Granth Sahib)	•	
	Friday 6	Epiphany	Christianity	
	Signifying the end of the 12 days of Christmas, Epiphany celebrates the visit of 1 to the infant Jesus as the occasion of the manifestation of Christ to the gentiles.			
	Saturday 7	Nativity [Orthodox]	Christianity	
		ebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, who is co God, and the savior of all people.	onsidered by	
	Sat 7 – Mon 9	Mahayana New Year **	Buddhism	
	The Buddhist New Year depends on the country of origin or ethnic background of people. In Mahayana countries the new year starts on first full moon day in Janutime to reflect on the past & cleanse oneself from prior year's sins, making a fre			
	Friday 13	Maghi	Sikhism	
	Maghi commemorates the sacrifice of the Chali Mukte (the Forty Liberated One sacrificed their own lives defending an attack by the imperial army in pursuit of Gobind Singh. This took place in Khidrane di Dhab, on 29 December 1705.			
	Sun 15 – Wed 18	Pongal	Hinduism	
	Pongal is a four-day harvest festival celebrated by Tamil people in India and Sri La dedicated to the Hindu Son of God Surya, thanking Surya for agricultural abundan			
	Thursday 19	Epiphany [Orthodox]	Christianity	
	Also known as The Feast of by John the Baptist in the Ri	Theophany, this observance commemorates iver Jordan.	Christ's baptism	

<sup>\*</sup> Holy days (mainly Jewish, Islamic and Baha'i) which begin at sundown on the previous day listed.

	Sunday 22	Chinese New Year	Buddhism	
	Also known as Lunar New Year or the Spring Festival, the Chinese New Year is the most important holiday in China and for Chinese people around the world. Celebrated by Buddhist, Confucian, and Taoist practitioners.			
February	Wednesday 15	Nirvana Day **	Buddhism	
	Nirvana Day (or Parinirvana Day) is a Mahayana holiday which celebrates the day when the Buddha is said to have achieved Parinirvana (complete enlightenment) upon the death of his physical body.			
	Saturday 18	MahaShivaratri **	Hinduism	
	MahaShivaratri (or 'Great Night of Shiva') is a festival celebrated in honour of the Hindu deity Lord Shiva, one of the deities of the Hindu Trinity.			
	Saturday 18	Lailat al Miraj *	Islam	
	1	nammad's night journey from Mecca to Jerus en and return the same night. Also known as		
	Tue 21 – Thu 23	Tibetan New Year	Buddhism	
	The Tibetan New Year, also known as Losar, is a three-day festival where people visit monasteries, make offerings, receive blessings and take part in various activities symbolizing purification and welcoming in the new.			
	22 Feb – 6 Apr	Lent begins	Christianity	
	Lent is the period of 40 days (not including Sundays) which comes before Easter, traditionally a time of fasting and reflection. The 40 days represents the time Jesus spent in the desert overcoming temptation by Satan. In Western Christianity, it begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Maundy Thursday.			
	27 Feb – 7 Apr	Great Lent [Orthodox]	Christianity	
	Great Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter, traditionally a time of fasting and reflection. The 40 days represents the time Jesus spent in the desert overcoming temptation by Satan. In the Orthodox Church, Great Lent starts on <i>Clean Monday</i> and ends on the Friday before <i>Lazarus Saturday</i> and <i>Palm Sunday</i> .			
March	Monday 6	Magha Puja Day **	Buddhism	
	Celebration of the presentation of teachings by the Buddha to a spontaneous gathering of 1250 arahants (holy men). Also known as 'Great Assembly Day' or 'Sangha Day'.			
	Tuesday 7	Purim *	Judaism	
	Commemorates the time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination by the courage of a young Jewish woman, Queen Esther. Preceded by the Fast of Esther, Purim is a joyous holiday.			
	Wednesday 8	Holi **	Hinduism	
	A joyous Hindu festival that celebrates love, spring and the victory of good over evil.  People throw colored water or colored powder in celebration. Holika Dahan, the burning of an effigy of a mythical demoness named Holika, is performed the night before.			

	Wednesday 8	Lailat al Bara'ah *	Islam		
	On this night, God approaches the Earth to call humanity and to grant forgiveness of sins. Shia and Sunni interpretations may vary on the meaning of this date.				
	Wednesday 8	Hola Mohalla	Sikhism		
	An annual festival started b Sikhs for military exercises a	y Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh Guru, a and mock battles.	s a gathering of		
	Tuesday 21	Naw Ruz *	Baha'i		
	Naw Ruz is the Baha'i New Year which coincides with the vernal equinox. The inception of the Baha'i calendar was on 21 March 1844 CE with the declaration of the Bab, the Prophet-Herald of the Baha'i Faith.				
	23 March – 21 April	Ramadan * (**)	Islam		
	revelation of the Qur'an to fast during daylight hours, of fervently and show charity	· 	nonth Muslims iends, pray		
	Saturday 25	Annunciation	Christianity		
		e visit of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mar nother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.	, during which he		
	Thursday 30	Rama Navami **	Hinduism		
	God Vishnu and hero of the	ne birth of Lord Rama, the seventh incarnati religious epic poem 'The Ramayana'.	1		
April	Sun 2 – Sat 8	Holy Week	Christianity		
	Holy week is the last week before Easter. It begins with <i>Palm Sunday</i> (commemoration of the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem) and includes <i>Maundy Thursday</i> (commemoration of the first Lord's Supper), <i>Good Friday</i> (commemoration of the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus Christ) and finishes on <i>Easter Saturday</i> (the one full day that Jesus Christ's body laid in the tomb).				
	Tuesday 4	Mahavir Jayanti	Jainism		
	Celebrates the birth of Lord	Mahavira, the 24th and last Tirthankar (enl	ightonod		
	spiritual Master) in Jainism.	Images of Lord Mahavira are paraded throud preaching about Lord Mahavira's teaching	igh the streets		
	spiritual Master) in Jainism.		igh the streets		
	spiritual Master) in Jainism. while performing rituals and Thu 6 – Sat 8  The Buddhist New Year dep people. In Theravadin coun	d preaching about Lord Mahavira's teaching	Buddhism ground of the odia, and Lao) the		
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	spiritual Master) in Jainism. while performing rituals and  Thu 6 – Sat 8  The Buddhist New Year dep people. In Theravadin count new year is celebrated for t  Thu 6 – Thu 13  An eight-day festival for fant slaves were led by Moses of	Theravada New Year  ends on the country of origin or ethnic backtries (i.e., Thailand, Burma, Sri Lanka, Cambe hree days from the first full moon day in Ap  Pesach *  nilies and communities to remember the tinut of Egypt to freedom. The festival begins we story of their deliverance is told. The first a	Buddhism ground of the odia, and Lao) the ril.  Judaism ne when Hebrew with the Seder		
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	Sunday 9	Easter	Christianity	
	The resurrection of Jesus Ch	nrist following his death by crucifixion.		
	Friday 14	Good/Holy Friday [Orthodox]	Christianity	
	Commemoration of the suff	fering and crucifixion of Jesus Christ.		
	Friday 14	Baisakhi	Sikhism	
	Baisakhi (Vaisakhi) marks the founding of the Khalsa (the Brotherhood of the Pure) in 1699 CE by Guru Gobind Singh. The Khalsa is the collective body of all baptised Sikhs who carry the five articles of the faith - Kesh (uncut hair), Kirpan (ceremonial sword), Kara (steel bracelet), Kanga (comb) and Kaccha (undershorts).			
	Sunday 16	Easter/Pascha [Orthodox]	Christianity	
	The resurrection of Jesus Ch	nrist following his death by crucifixion.		
	Monday 17	Lailat al Qadr *	Islam	
	First revelation of Qur'an (Is known as 'Night of Power/E	slamic scriptures) to Prophet Muhammad in 6 Destiny'.	10 CE. Also	
	Tuesday 18	Yom HaShoah *	Judaism	
	Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) is a day set aside to remember the six million Jews who died as victims of the Nazis during World War II and emphasizes refor human dignity. Observed by many people of Jewish and other faiths.			
	21 Apr – 2 May	Ridvan *	Baha'i	
	Baha'i commemoration of the twelve-day period that Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i faith, spent in the Garden of Ridvan in the last days of his exile in Baghdad, an publicly proclaimed His mission as God's messenger for this age. The first, ninth and twelfth days are celebrated as holy days and work is suspended.			
	Saturday 22	Eid ul Fitr *	Islam	
	An important religious holiday celebrated by Muslims worldwide that celebrat of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting. Also known as the festival of the 'Breaking of the Fast'.			
May	Friday 5	Vesak / Buddha Day **	Buddhism	
	death of the Buddha. Also k	Buddhist festival, celebrating the birth, enligl nown as 'Vishakha Puja' or 'Buddha's Day'. T cantly among Buddhist cultures and commun	he dates of	
	Wednesday 24	Declaration of the Bab *	Baha'i	
	The Baha'i commemorates when the Bab, the herald of the Baha'i Faith, announced in Shiraz, Persia (now Iran), that he was the herald of a new messenger of God.			
	Fri 26 – Sat 27	Shavuot *	Judaism	
	Shavuot, also known as Feast of Weeks, commemorates the anniversary of the day God gave the Torah and Commandments to the nation of Israel assembled at Mount Sinai. Marks the conclusion of the seven weeks following Pesach. Originally a harvest festival.			

	Sunday 28	Pentecost	Christianity		
	Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Jesus seven weeks (50 days) after the Resurrection (Easter). It also commemorates the founding of the Christian Church, which begins on this day. [Celebrated on 12 <sup>th</sup> of June by Orthodox Christians].				
	Monday 29 Ascension of Baha'ullah * Ba				
	Baha'is observe the anniversary of the death in exile of Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i faith, on May 29, 1892, outside Akko (now northern Israel).				
June	Friday 16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjun Dev Ji	Sikhism		
	Guru Arjan Dev (1563-1606), the 5th Guru, was the first martyr-guru. He was responsible for the compilation of the Sikh scriptures in 1604 CE. He also helped to build the Golden Temple at Amritsar and emphasized that the Sikh way was open to all, regardless of caste.				
	Thursday 29	Eid Al Adha *	Islam		
	Commemorates Ibrahim's (Abraham) willingness to sacrifice his son as an act of submission to God's command. Also known as 'Feast of Sacrifice'. One of the two Islamic festivals (the other being Eid al Fitr).				
July	Monday 3	Asalha Puja **	Buddhism		
			Baaamsm		
•	Asalha Puja commemorates known as 'Dharma/Dhamm	Buddha's first teaching (the Wheel of Day', it is recognized as the beginning nunity of Buddhist monks and nuns).	harma). Also		
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	Asalha Puja commemorates known as 'Dharma/Dhamm the monastic Sangha (commemoration of to Muhammad), the herald of Tabriz, Persia (now Iran).  Wednesday 19  The Islamic year is marked I	Buddha's first teaching (the Wheel of Da Day', it is recognized as the beginning nunity of Buddhist monks and nuns).  Martyrdom of the Bab *  the anniversary of the execution of the Batha'i Faith, by a firing squad on July  Hijra *  by the event known as Hijra which occur nad migrated from Mecca to Medina, where the state of the	Baha'i  ab (Siyyid 'Ali- y 9 1850, in  Islam  red in 622 CE,		
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August	Tuesday 15	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Christianity	
	Commemorates the assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven - at the end of her life, Mary, the mother of Christ, was taken body and soul (i.e. both physically and spiritually) into Heaven. Also known as the Feast of the Assumption.			
	Wednesday 30	Ullambana**	Buddhism	
	Ullambana, also known as Ancestor Day or Obon, is a Mahayana Buddhist ritual of making merit for the deceased. Lay devotees make offerings on behalf of their ancestors and dedicate the merit towards relieve of their suffering.			
	Wednesday 30	Raksha Bandhan **	Hinduism	
	'Raksha' means protection and 'Bandhan' means to tie - a holy thread tied to the brother's wrist by their sister defines the strong bond between them. Also known as Rakhi, this Hindu festival celebrates a brother-sister like relationship between relatives or biologically unrelated.			
September	Wednesday 6	Krishna Janmashtami **	Hinduism	
	Krishna Janmashtami (or Jayanti) is the annual commemoration of the birth of the Hindu deity Krishna, the eighth avatar of the God Vishnu. Worship of Krishna is characteristically expressed in dance and song.			
	Mon 11 – Tues 19	Paryushana **	Jainism	
	'Paryushana' means 'to stay in one place', signifying a time of reflection and repentance for nuns and monks. For lay Jains (Swetamber sect), this eight-day festival is an inward journey of reflection, a time for fasting, taking vows, and imposing restrictions on oneself to keep the mind firmly fixed on spirituality.			
	Sat 16 – Sun 17	Rosh Hashanah *	Judaism	
	Jewish New Year festival, marked by the blowing of the horn (shofar) which begins the ten days of penitence culminating in Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). It is the beginning of the holiest time of the year for Jews, and the anniversary of the creation of the world.			
	Tuesday 19	Samvatsari **	Jainism	
	Known as the Festival of Forgiveness, Samvatsari is celebrated on the last day of Paryushana. On this day, Jains (Swetamber sect) offer and seek forgiveness for their actions committed knowingly or unknowingly.			
	Tuesday 19	Ganesh Chaturthi **	Hinduism	
	Ganesh Chaturthi is a Hindu festival celebrating the birthday of Lord Ganesh, one of the major Hindu deities. Ganesh has the head of an elephant and is known as the remover of obstacles.			
	Tue 19 – Thu 28	Daslakshana **	Jainism	
	Daslakshana is a ten-day festival celebrated by Jains (Digambara sect), honouring the ten cardinal virtues of the soul: forgiveness, humility, straight forwardness, contentment, truth, sensual restraint, austerities, charity, non-possessiveness, and celibacy.			

	Wednesday 20	Kshamavani**		Jainism
	Known as "Forgiveness Day", Kshamavani is celebrated on the last day of Daslakshana. On this day, Jains (Digambara sect) offer and seek forgiveness for actions committed knowingly or unknowingly.			
	Monday 25	Yom Kippur *		Judaism
	Yom Kippur, also known as Day of Atonement, is the holiest day of the year for the Jewish people, characterized by repentance and forgiveness. Jewish people traditional observe this holy day with fasting and intensive prayer, often spending most of the day synagogue services.			
	30 Sep – 6 Oct	Sukkot *		Judaism
	thanks for the fall harve	. The name refers to the ndering in the desert a	eight-day Jewish festival he booths (sukkot) used b after the giving of the Tor our.	y Israelites
October	Saturday 7	Shemini Atzeret *		Judaism
	Literally the "8th day of prayer for rain.	ssembly," this holiday	marks the end of Sukkot	with an annual
	Sunday 8	Simchat Torah *		Judaism
	• •	n for the year. The cele	nich the annual cycle of reading the Torah is over,  The celebration typically includes singing,  Ils.	
	Sun 15 – Mon 23	Navaratri **		Hinduism
		ower (Shakti). This nin	a festival honouring the Ge-day festival includes wo the feminine.	•
	Monday 16	Sirth of the Bab *		Baha'i
	- I		, Persia (now Iran), of Siy o', meaning 'the Gate'. Th	
	Tuesday 17	irth of Baha'ullah *		Baha'i
	The anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah (born Mirza Husayn-'Ali) in 1817 CE in T Persia (now Iran). Baha'u'llah, which means the 'Glory of God', is the founder of the Baha'i faith.			
	Friday 20	Conferment of Gurushi	ip to Guru Granth Sahib	Sikhism
	This day celebrates Guru Gobind Singh Ji's (10th Guru) passing on guruship to t scriptures, henceforth known as the Guru Granth Sahib. The Guru Granth Sahib comprising of 1430 pages of hymns, presides the most prominent place and sh the light of Truth to all Sikhs or devotees who seek it. (Celebrated on 6th Novement of Nanakshahi calendar)			n Sahib, and shines

	Tuesday 24	Dussehra	Hinduism		
	, , ,	Dasara) is a Hindu festival that celebrates the Dussehra through special prayer meetings an emples.	, ,		
	Saturday 28	Kathina **	Buddhism		
	month rainy season retreat. monks and nuns by offering	ddhist festival which comes at the end of Vass. It is a time of giving where the laity express them new robes and other necessities. Also, the poor or needy, called giving alms.	gratitude to the		
November	Wednesday 1	All Saints Day	Christianity		
	All Saints Day honours exemplary Christians who achieved sainthood, especially those not having a special day. For many Christian denominations, all Saints Day is a remembrance of departed Christian people of any time and place.				
	Sunday 12	Bandi Chhor Divas (Diwali)	Sikhism		
	Bandi Chhor Divas, or 'The Celebration of Freedom', commemorates the release in 1619 CE from prison of the sixth Sikh guru, Sri Guru Hargobind Ji. Sikhs continue this annual celebration with lamps being lit outside gurdwaras & sweets distributed to all.				
	Sunday 12	Diwali **	Hinduism		
	Diwali, also known as Festival of Lights, is one of the most celebrated Hindu festivals, commemorating the victory of good over evil. Diwali means 'row of lamps/lights' and refers to the rows of lamps celebrants place around their homes or on top of temples.				
	Sunday 12 (or 13)	Mahavira Nirvana (Diwali)	Jainism		
		I of lights, celebrated throughout the nation. his day Lord Mahavira gave his last teachings ).			
	Friday 24	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji	Sikhism		
	_	675) was the 9th Guru of the Sikhs. He was p n 1675 for his defense of the Sikh faith and fo eedom.	=		
	Sunday 26	Day of the Covenant	Baha'i		
	his followers, regarding the	the agreement between the faith's founder, Baha'u'llah, and e succession of leadership and the maintenance of unity. It h's appointment of his eldest son, Abdu'l-Baha, as the leader fter his passing.			
	Monday 27	Birth of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Ji	Sikhism		
	Observes the birth of Guru Sri Guru Nanak Dev Sahib, the founder of the S born in 1469 CE. An accomplished poet, 974 of his hymns are part of the Sahib.				

	Tuesday 28	Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha	Baha'i
	Commemorates the passing of Abdu'l-Baha in 1921 in Haifa. Abdu'l-Baha was the eldest son of Baha'u'llah, the prophet-founder of the Baha'i faith, and named the leader of the Baha'i community in his father's will.		
December	Friday 8	Bodhi Day	Buddhism
	Bodhi Day is a holiday commemorating the day the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama reached enlightenment around 596 BCE. Prince Gautama took his place unde the Bodhi tree vowing to remain there until he attained enlightenment.		
	Sun 3 – Sun 24	Advent	Christianity
	Advent is the period leading up to Christmas. It begins on the fourth Sunday befo Christmas (Advent Sunday) and continues through to December 24th (Christmas Western churches, Advent Sunday marks the beginning of Christian liturgical year		
	Fri 8 – Fri 15	Hanukkah *	Judaism
	Hanukkah (Chanukah), also known as the Feast of Lights, is an eight-day festival commemorating the recapture and rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem over occupying forces in 165 BCE.		
	Monday 25	Christmas	Christianity
		of the birth of Jesus Christ, who is considere ne savior of all people. [Celebrated on Januar	

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