Faith Calendar

**JANUARY**
- **01-07** Imbolc - Honours the goddess Brigid and marks the return of Spring.
- **01-02** candlemas - commemorates the presentation of the baby Jesus in the Temple and the purification of His mother after giving birth.
- **03** Setsubun - Part of the Spring festival with special food to ward off evil.
- **08-09** Isra and Mir'aj - commemorates the Prophet Muhammad's journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascent into heaven.
- **10** Chinese New Year, Year of the Dragon - Most important of the Chinese New Year, celebrating the birth of the first child in the new year.
- **13** Shrove Tuesday - The day of preparation for Lent (the 40 days leading up to Easter), traditionally marked by eating pancakes.
- **14** Ash Wednesday - First day of Lent. Many Christians receive ashes on their foreheads in church as a symbol of mortality and penance.
- **15** Palm Sunday - commemorates the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem.
- **25-27** Bu’ishvat - Marks the beginning of the new year for trees.
- **27** Holocaust Memorial Day - Remembering the millions of people killed in the Holocaust.

**FEBRUARY**
- **01-09** AMRIT SABH - Celebrating the birth of Lord Mahavira, the last Tirthankara of the Jains.
- **10** Valentine's Day - Celebrated by the exchanging of gifts.
- **14** Gurdwara - A day of love and devotion for Sikhism.
- **15-16** Mawlid - Observance of the birthday of prophet Muhammad.
- **17** International Day of Peace - A day devoted to strengthening the ideal of peace among and within all nations.
- **19** Pentecost/Whitsun - Marks the descent of the Holy Spirit.
- **20** Good Friday - Day of repentance and acceptance of salvation in the eyes of Christians.
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- **20-24** Easter Week - Commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- **25** Ascension Day - Marks the ascension of Jesus Christ to heaven after the rose from the dead on Easter Sunday.

**MARCH**
- **01** St David's Day - Celebrates the patron Saint of Wales.
- **01-19** Nineteen Day Fast - Adults fast from sunset to sunset for 19 days, important for prayer, reflection, and renewal.
- **08** Maha Shivaratri - Festival commemoration of Shiva, the god of destruction and transformation.
- **11** Shrovetide - The first day of the season of Lent.
- **17** St Patrick's Day - Honours the patron Saint of Ireland.
- **19-20** Spring Equinox - The first day of the equinox, marking the balance between day and night.
- **21** Palm Sunday - Marks the final week of Jesus' earthly life, leading up to his crucifixion on Good Friday.
- **25** Birthday of St Chaitanya Mahaprabhu - Celebrates the birth of a great Hindu saint and the founder of the Gaudiya Vaishnava tradition.
- **29** Ash Wednesday - First day of Lent. Many Christians receive ashes on their foreheads in church as a symbol of mortality and penance.

**APRIL**
- **05-06** Lailay at-Qadr - Marks the night in which the Qur’an was first revealed.
- **07-20** Eidal-Fitr (End of Ramadan) - Celebrates the completion of Ramadan, the month of fasting. The festival is marked by a five-day period of prayer and reflection.
- **21-23** Eid al-Adha - Commemorates the sacrifice of Abraham for the Lord's sake.
- **28** Ash Wednesday - First day of Lent. Many Christians receive ashes on their foreheads in church as a symbol of mortality and penance.

**MAY**
- **07** Beltane - Celebrates the fertility marking the beginning of Summer.
- **07** Twelfth Day of Ridvan - One of the major festivals of the Bahá'í faith.
- **08** May Day - A festival of colour marking the end of winter.
- **12** Shavuot - Celebration of the birth of the first-born son of the Egyptian Pharaoh.
- **14** The Holy Thursday - Festival celebrated in reverence of Lord Shiva.
- **19** Guru Purnima Day - Observes the birthday of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism.
- **21** Guru Nanak Jayanti - celebrates the birth of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism.

**JUNE**
- **07** Jagannath Rath Yatra - Public procession and festival.
- **08** Hanuman Jayanti - Celebration of Lord Hanuman, the monkey god and the devotee of Lord Shiva.
- **09** Martandm of the Báb - commemorates the Báb's declaration of his mission as the messenger of God.
- **12-13** Lohri - A festival of lights symbolising the victory of light over darkness and love over ignorance.
- **16** Guru Purnima Day - Observes the birthday of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism.
- **24** Midsommer Day - A festival of the sun power on the longest day of the year.
- **29** Feast of Saints Peter and Paul - Observed by Roman Catholics, Anglicans, and Lutherans.

**JULY**
- **07** Lughnasadh - Marks the first day of harvest.
- **13** Bishnu Puja - One of the twin founders of the Baha'i faith, Bahá'u'lláh.
- **15** The Blessed Virgin Mary - Observes the birthday of the mother of Jesus, Mary.
- **20** Gurdwara - A day of love and devotion for Sikhism.
- **26** Janmashtami - Celebrates the birthday of Lord Krishna, beloved to have been born on the human form 5,000 years ago.

**AUGUST**
- **01** Advent Sunday - The first Sunday of Autumn.
- **08** Bodhi Day - Marks the date that the historical Buddha, Siddhārtha Gautama (Shakyamuni) experienced enlightenment (some cultures celebrate this alternate date).
- **10** Christmas Day (Celebrate) - Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ and is widely celebrated by the exchanging of gifts.
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**SEPTEMBER**
- **01** First reading of Guru Granth Sahib - The Sikh scripture is recited at the Golden Temple for the first time.
- **07** Ganesh Chaturthi - Festival that commemorates God Ganesha's birthday.
- **08** Al-Hijra (Islamic New Year) - Marks the beginning of the Islamic calendar.
- **15**-16** Mawlid - Observance of the birthday of prophet Muhammad.
- **19** Birthday of Holy Mother Sarada Devi - Celebrates the birthday of the Hindu goddess, Sarada Devi.
- **24** Christmas Eve - Time for preparation for Christmas.
- **25** Christmas Day - celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ and is widely celebrated by the exchanging of gifts.
- **26-20** Channakar - Celebrates the rededication of Jerusalem's Second Temple and the miracle of the menorah, which was kept alive for eight days with one day's oil.

**OCTOBER**
- **01** All Saints' Day - Honours all Saints in Christian history.
- **06-11** Diwali - Festival of light symbolising the victory of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.
- **04** Birth of the Báb - Celebrates the birth of the Báb, forefather and the opening of the first Baha'i temple.
- **06** Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh - One of the twin founders of the Baha'i faith, who was born in 1850.
- **01** All Saints' Day - Honours all Saints in Christian history.
- **15** Shichi-Go-San - Festival celebrating the growth and well-being of young children.
- **16** Guru Nanak Gurubh - Celebrates the birth of the first Sikh guru.
- **24** Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur - Celebrates the fifth Sikh guru who undertook the sacrifice for protection of the oppressed.

**NOVEMBER**
- **08** Remembrance Sunday - Commemorates the contribution of military service people in the two World Wars, and later conflicts.
- **10-17** Inter Faith Week - A week to focus on inter faith understanding and cooperation.
- **12** Bandhi Chhor Divas - Commemorates the peaceful release of 52 kings and their sons by Guru Gobind Singh.
- **22** Birthday of Holy Mother Sarada Devi - Celebrates the birthday of the Hindu goddess, Sarada Devi.
- **23** Ascension of Abdur-Rahim - Celebrates the death of Bahá'u'lláh.

**DECEMBER**
- **01** Advent Sunday - The first Sunday of Autumn.
- **22** Birthday of Holy Mother Sarada Devi - Celebrates the birthday of the Hindu goddess, Sarada Devi.
- **25** Christmas Day - celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ and is widely celebrated by the exchanging of gifts.

Data used are correct to the best of our knowledge. Some may vary regionally because they are determined by the local calendar. Some may be subject to confirmation of sighting of the moons. Some may begin the morning before the listed date. Sikh dates are based on Nanak Sahib calendar.