

Multi Faith Calendar 2009



Christianity

Monotheistic religion, 1st Century CE, developing out of Judaism. Religion with most followers world-wide, divided into several traditions.



Basic belief: Jesus Christ, Son of God, came into the world to live as a human being and, through his death by crucifixion, to redeem humanity's sins.

Sacred Texts: The Bible. Old Testament - the Hebrew scriptures as accepted by the Jews. New Testament - written in Greek, includes Four Gospels recording Christ's life, teachings, death and resurrection.

Observances: The wide range of observance reflects the many Christian traditions that have developed down the centuries. All Christians attempt to live in a Christ-like way, following his two-fold commandment to love God and to love our neighbour as yourself. Thus, unselfishness and compassion are central themes of Christian living. Worship ranges from the formal sacramental, rich in ritual and sacred music, to the simple and spontaneous, with emphasis on the preaching and hearing of the Word of God as set forth in the Bible.

Judaism

The oldest of the great monotheistic (i.e. One God) religions (1300 BC).



Basic beliefs:

There is a single, eternal, invisible God (Yahweh, Jehovah) Who created the world. The Jews are His "Chosen People", enjoying a special relationship with Him.

Sacred Texts:

Torah (The Mosaic Law - basically the Old Testament Pentateuch), Talmud (Religious & Civil Laws) composed of Mishnah (Oral Law) and Gemara (Scholarly commentaries).

Observances:

Essentially a social and family religion concerned with every aspect of life. Lacking on official creed or central authority, stress is laid on right behaviour, rather than doctrine - Man's duty is to serve God with all his being. Rabbi's are scholars and teachers rather than priests. Orthodox Jews maintain strict dietary laws, practice circumcision etc. There are also Reform, Conservative, Liberal and Progressive movements with less rigorous practices.

Islam

Monotheistic religion founded in the 7th century CE. Islam means 'the act of resignation' to God; believers are known as Muslims.



Basic Belief:

Summed up in the Shahada or Confession of Faith - 'There is no God but Allah and Muhammad His prophet'. Muslims revere the Old Testament prophets and Jesus but believe Muhammad to be the final prophet.

Sacred Text:

Koran (Arabic Qu'ran) as revealed to Muhammad which

completes and supersedes earlier revelations (e.g. Old Testament).

Observances:

Islam offers a complete model of living like Judaism. Duties are:

1. 5 daily prayer sessions (plus ceremonial washing).
2. Giving of alms via welfare tax (zakat).
3. Fasting during the month of Ramadan
4. Pilgrimage (hajj) to Mecca at least once .

These plus the Shahada make up the Five Pillars. There are also dietary laws, circumcision and guides to conduct. Islam recognises its debt to Christianity and Judaism and treats them as protected sister religions - 'People of the Book'. Sunnism and Shi'ism are the two main forms (based upon different views about the role of the Prophet's descendants) but the latter has also split into various sects - Ismailis, Bohras, Khojas

Sikhism

Monotheistic religion dating from the 15th century CE, based in the Punjab.



Basic Belief: Founded by Guru (Teacher) Nanak who taught acknowledgement and tolerance of religious differences, drawing on Hinduism and Islam, emphasising the unity of God whatever name is used, and preaching universal tolerance. The individual can experience and know God through worship, meditation, selfless service and living a truthful life. The Sikh warrior tradition of Saint Soldier resulted from Mogul persecutions and the need to protect the community.

Sacred Text:

Guru Granth compiled from the writings of the Gurus, finalised at the time of the 10th and last human Guru (c. 1700). The written word in the Guru Granth is revered as the spoken word of the Guru.

Observances:

Community based religion - there are no priests, anyone can lead (Granth are guides to the teachings rather than priests). Spiritual release is sought through devotional singing of hymns from *Guru Granth* which is set to musical raags, recitations of the divine name, meditation and selfless service - all designed to tame the ego and focus the mind and body on God. Asceticism is discouraged and a family lifestyle is looked upon as the highest order.

The universal adoption of Singh (male) Kaur (female) surnames indicates that all Sikhs belong to the same family/caste. Amridhari (baptised) Sikhs wear on their person the 5 Ks - Kesh (uncut hair), Kangha (wooden comb), Kirpan (dagger), Kara (bracelet), Kach (breeches) and lead a disciplined lifestyle. The word Sikh means discipline.

Hinduism

Very ancient, complex and pantheistic (i.e. belief in many gods/goddesses); the dominant religion of India it includes many traditions and beliefs and is subject to continual revision and refinement.



Basic belief:

Man seeks unity with the absolute (Atman or Brahman) thus escaping the wheel of existence (Samsara). Release (Moksa) comes through right deeds/actions (Karma). The cycle of lives continues (reincarnation, transmigration of souls) until Moksa is achieved. This has led to a deep respect for all forms of life and creation of the caste system reflecting the amount of Karma from an individual's last existence.

Sacred Texts:

There is no fixed holy scripture but the central doctrines are found in certain ancient works - Vedas, Brahmanas, Upanishads, Bhagavad-gita.

Observances:

There is no single path to Moksa. Hinduism tolerates a great variety of beliefs and practices and there is freedom of choice in adopting ideas or modes of behaviour. The Holy Man or Guru may act as a guide to a particular route to release. Some Hindus argue that the religion is not, strictly speaking, polytheistic (worship of several gods), but that the gods can be seen to represent different aspect of a single Deity.

Buddhism

6th Century BCE offshoot of Hinduism
founded by Prince Siddhartha, later Buddha
(The Enlightened One).



Basic beliefs:

Buddhists accept the Hindu cycle of lives and offer a route of release (Nirvana) through a code of correct behaviour and discipline based on the four Noble Truths - 1) All existence is unhappiness. 2) Unhappiness comes from selfish desire 3) Desire can be cured. 4) The way to Nirvana is the Eightfold Path. There is no concept of God or worship.

Sacred Texts:

Tipitaka - compiled after Buddha's death.

Observances:

The Eightfold Path urges right views, desires, speech, conduct, livelihood, effort, awareness and meditation. Many schools of Buddhist thought have developed, though reverence for all forms of life is common to all.

MULTI FAITH CALENDAR 2009

January 2009

Thursday 1st

Christian Circumcision
Secular New Years Day
Shinto Oshogatsu
Christian Festival of St Basil The great

Sunday 4th

Christian Ephiphany

Monday 5th

Sikh Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh

Tuesday 6th

Christian Epiphany
Christian Christmas Day (Armenian Orthodox)
Christian Theophany
Jewish 10th Tevet

Wednesday 7th

Muslim Ashura
Rastafari Christmas Day (Ethiopian)
Christian Christmas Day (orthodox)

Sunday 11th

Christian First Sunday after Epiphany

Christian Baptism of the lord

Tuesday 13th

Christian St Hilary's Day

Wednesday 14th

Hindu Makar Sanrant

Thursday 15th

Shinto Seijin Shiki (adults Day)

Sunday 18th

Christian Week of prayer for Christian Unity

Bahai World Religion Day

Multi Faith World Religion Day

Wednesday 21st

Christian St Agnes

Sunday 25th

Christian St Pauls Day

Monday 26th

Chinese Chinese New Year

Tuesday 27th

Buddhist Losar (start)

Jewish National Holocaust Memorial Day

Multi Faith National Holocaust Memorial Day

Wednesday 28th

Christian St Thomas Aquinas

Saturday 31st

Sikh Birthday of Guru Har Rai (Nanakshahi calendar)

February 2009

Monday 2nd

Pagan Imbic

Christian Candlemas

Tuesday 3rd

Shinto Rissun (Setsubun)

Sunday 8th

Buddhist Parinrvana- Nivarna Day

Monday 9th

Jewish Tu B'Shevat

Wednesday 11th

Christian Our Lady of Lourdes

Saturday 14th

Christian St Valentines Day

Sunday 15th

Buddhist Nirvana Day (alternative Day)

Tuesday 24th

Christian Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday 25th

Christian Ash Wednesday

March 2009

Sunday 1st

Christian St David's Day

Monday 2nd

Bahai Nineteen Day Fast(Start)

Christian Clean Monday Beginning of Lent

Tuesday 3rd

Shinto Hina-matsuri Festival of Dolls

Thursday 5th

Christian St Piran's Day

Friday 6th

Multi Faith Women's World Day of Prayer

Monday 9th

Muslim Milad un Nabi (Birthday of the Prophet Muhammad)

Tuesday 10th

Jewish Purim

Wednesday 11th

Sikh Hola Mohalla(Lunar Calendar)

Saturday 14th

Muslim Milad un Nabi(Shia)

Tuesday 17th

Christian St Patrick's Day

Thursday 19th

Christian St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday 20th

Pagan Spring Equinox- Easter

Saturday 21st

Zoroastrian Jamshedi Noruz(Fasli)

Zoroastrian Jamshedi Noruz(Qadimi)

Shinto Shubun-sai-Equinox Day

Bahai Naw-Ruz

Sunday 22nd

Peter Blundell 2008

Christian Mothering Sunday

Wednesday 25th

Christian Annunciation

Thursday 26th

Zoroastrian Khordad Sai (Fasli)

April 2009

Friday 3rd

Hindu Rama Navami

Sunday 5th

Christian Palm Sunday

Tuesday 7th

Jain Mahavira Jaanti

Thursday 9th

Jehovah's Witnesses Memorial Of Christs Death

Jewish Passover

Christian Maundy Thursday

Friday 10th

Christian Good Friday

Sunday 12th

Christian Easter Sunday

Monday 13th

Sikh Vaisakhi

Tuesday 14th

Sikh Birthday of Guru Nanak (Nanakshahi calendar)

Sikh Hola Mohalla (Nanakshahi Calendar)

Saturday 18th

Sikh Birthday of Guru Angad Dev(Nankshahi calendar)

Sikh Birthday of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Nanakshahi calendar)

Sunday 19th

Christian Easter (Orthodox)

Tuesday 21st

Jewish Yom Hashoah

Bahai Ridvan- First Day

Rastafari Anniversary of Haile Selassie's visit to Jamaica

Thursday 23rd

Christian St Georges Day

Wednesday 29th

Bahai Ridvan- ninth day

May 2009

Friday 1st

Pagan Beltane

Saturday 2nd

Bahai Ridvan- Twelfth Day

Sikh Birthday of Guru Arjan Dev (Nanakshahi calendar)

Saturday 9th

Buddhist Theravada New Year

Buddhist Wesak or Buddha Day

Thursday 21st

Christian Ascension Day

Saturday 23rd

Sikh Birthday of Guru Amar Das (Nanakshahi calendar)

Bahai Declaration of the Bab

Sunday 24th

Christian Ascension Day(Catholic Church in England & Wales)

Friday 29th

Jewish Shavuot

Bahai Ascension of Baha'u'llah

Sunday 31st

Christian Pentecost-Whitsun

June 2009

Sunday 7th

Christian Trinity Sunday

Christian All Saints Day (Orthodox)

Sunday 14th

Christian Corpus Christi

Tuesday 16th

Sikh Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev (Nanakshahi calendar)

Sunday 21st

Pagan Summer Solstice-Litha

Sunday 28th

Christian St Peters Day (Catholic Church in England & Wales)

Monday 29th

Christian St Peters Day

July 2009

Sunday 5th

Sikh Birthday of Guru Hargobind (Nanakshahi Calendar)

Tuesday 7th

Buddhist Asaia-Dharma Day

Thursday 9th

Jewish 17th Tammuz

Bahai Martyrdom of the Bab

Wednesday 15th

Christian St Switins Day

Thursday 23rd

Rastafari Birthday of Haile Selassie 1

Sikh Birthday of Guru Har Krishen (Nanakshahi Calendar)

Friday 24th

Mormon Pioneer Day

Sunday 26th

Zoroastrian Khordad Sal (Qadimi)

Thursday 30th

Jewish Tisha B'Av

August 2009

Saturday 1st

Pagan Lughnasadh- Lammas

Wednesday 5th

Hindu Raksha Bandham

Thursday 6th

Christian Transfiguration

Saturday 16th

Christian Dormition of the Theotokos

Christian Assumption of the Blessed Mary

Monday 17th

Jain Paryushana

Rastafari Birthday of Marcus Garvey

Wednesday 19th

Zoroastrian Jamshedi Noruz (Shenshai)

Saturday 22nd

Muslim Ramadan (Start)

Monday 24th

Zoroastrian Khordad Sal (Shenshai)

September 2009

Tuesday 8th

Christian Feast of the Birth Of Mary

Christian Nativity of the Theotokos

Christian Birthday of the Blessed Mary

Friday 11th

Rastafari Ethiopian New Year

Saturday 19th

Jewish Rosh Hashannah

Hindu Navaratri (Start)

Monday 21st

Muslim Eid-UI-Fitr

Tuesday 22nd

Pagan Autumn Equinox

Monday 28th

Jewish Yom Kippur

Hindu Dussera

October 2009

Saturday 3rd

Jewish Sukkot

Friday 9th

Sikh Birthday of Guru Ram Das (Nanakshahi Calendar)

Saturday 10th

Jewish Shemini Atzeret

Sunday 11th

Jewish Simchat Torah

Tuesday 13th

Christian St Edwards Day

Saturday 17th

Sikh Diwali

Hindu Diwali

Jain Diwali

Tuesday 20th

Bahai Birth of the Bab

Saturday 31st

Pagan Samhain (Hallowe'en)

Christian Hallowe'en (All Hallows Eve)

November 2009

Sunday 1st

Christian All Saints Day

Monday 2nd

Christain All souls Day

Peter Blundell 2008

Rastafari Coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie 1
Sikh Birthday of Guru Nanak (Lunar Calendar)

Sunday 8th

Multifaith Remembrance Sunday

Wednesday 11th

Multifaith Armistice Day

Thursday 12th

Bahai Birth of Baha'ullah

Sunday 15th

Shinto Shichigosan (7-5-3 festival)

Monday 23rd

Shinto Ninamesei

Tuesday 24th

Sikh Martydom of Guru Tegh Bahadur

Thursday 26th

Bahai Day of the Covenant

Saturday 28th

Bahai Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha

Sunday 29th

Christian Advent Sunday

Monday 30th

Christian St Andrews

December 2009

Tuesday 8th

Buddhist Bodhi Day

Christian Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Saturday 12th

Jewish Hanukkah

Sunday 13th

Christian St Lucy's Day

Friday 18th

Muslim Al-Hijira

Monday 21st

Pagan Winter Solstice

Thursday 24th

Christian Christmas Eve

Friday 25th

Christian Christmas Day

Saturday 26th

Secular Boxing Day

Christian St Stephens Day

Sunday 27th

Muslim Ashura

Sources:

www.edupics.com

www.bgfl.org

www.bbc.co.uk/religion

