



Multi-Faith Calendar 2017

January

1 st	Shogatsu Most important festival in Japan celebrates the New Year. The Kami deities are welcomed with feasts and gifts.	Shinto
1 st	Feast of St Basil St Basil was a leader in the Greek Orthodox Christian Church. This day is celebrated by the baking of cakes with gold or silver coins.	Orthodox Christian
5 th	Birth of Guru Gobind Singh # Celebration of the birth of the founder of the Khalsa the collective organisation for all baptised Sikhs.	Sikh
6 th	Epiphany # Feast to celebrate the baptism of Jesus when the Trinity was revealed.	Christian
6 th	Orthodox Christmas #	Armenian Orthodox
7 th	Feast of the nativity # Orthodox Christmas according to the Julian calendar.	Orthodox Christian
13 th	Maghi The sacrifice of Chali Mukte or the 40 liberated ones to save Guru Gobind Singh. Celebrated by eating Kheer sweet rice porridge.	Sikh
14 th	Makar Sankranti ** Harvest festival and celebration of the sun's entry into Makar the Capricorn zodiac which is considered to be highly auspicious.	Hindu
15 th	World Religion Day # Aim to foster interfaith understanding and harmony.	interfaith
19 th	Coptic Epiphany # Revelation of Jesus as God at his baptism.	Coptic Orthodox
28 th	Pinyin or Chinese New Year # Celebrates when villagers were saved from the beast Nian by hanging red papers and firecrackers. Also the Spring festival.	Taoist/ Chinese Mythology

29 th	Tet or Lunar New Year # Feast of the First Morning. Traditional family rituals to bring luck and ward off evil spirits. Varies per region.	Vietnamese folk religion
30 th	Birth of Guru Har Rai Sahib Ji	Sikh
31 st	Ganesh Jayanti Anniversary of the birth of Lord Ganesha.	Hindu
February		
1 st	Lammas/Lughnasadh - Harvest Festival Gaelic festival marking the beginning of the harvest season, traditionally celebrated in August in the Northern hemisphere.	Pagan/Wicca
3 rd	Setsubun Beginning of spring, beans throwing festival to ward off evil spirits. The following day is Risshun the first day of spring and beginning of the lunar year.	Shinto
11 th	<i>Tu BiShvat or 15th day of Shevat</i> <i>The day of New year for trees, first blooming of the season.</i> <i>Celebrated by eating fruit traditionally giving tithe to the priests.</i> <i>(A minor Jewish holiday begins sundown on Friday the 10th.)</i>	<i>Jewish</i>
11 th	Magha Puja/ Sangha Day # Honours the Buddhist community particularly the nuns and monks.	Theravada Buddhism
15 th	Parinirvana / Nirvana Day # Celebrates the death of Buddha when he attained nirvana.	Mahanyana Buddhist
25 th	Maha Shivaratri ** Festival celebrated every year in reverence of Lord Shiva. It is the day Shiva was married to Parvati.	Hindu
27 th	Losar New Year Tibetan New year # Predates Buddhism incense offered to appease spirits and purify.	Bön/ Buddhist
28 th	Shrove Tuesday # Day before lent. Eating of pancakes is traditional.	Christian
March		
1 st	Ash Wednesday # A day of fasting, the first day of Lent prior to Easter.	Christian

1 st	St David's day # Celebrates the death of the patron saint of Wales. Symbol: Daffodils or leaks.	Welsh/ Christian
3 rd	Hinamatsuri Doll festival a festival for young girls to ward off evil.	Shinto
12 th	Purim*# Jewish festival to celebrate the deliverance of the Jews by Esther. (Begins sundown the 11th.) Associated Minor Holy days: 9 th March Ta'anit Esther 13 th March Shushan Purim	Jewish
13 th	Holi ** # The festival of colours or the festival of love.	Hindu
13 th	Hola mohala Festival of tenth Sikh gurus who battled the Mughal empire. Commemorative celebrations include mock battles and poetry contests.	Sikh
14 th - 18 th	Five Holy days of Parwonaya or Banja Parwonaya is the purest day of the Mandaean year that celebrates the creation of the Angels and the Universe by Haii Rabbe Ghadmayee. This time should be spent with family, to help the poor and baptism.	Mandaean
17 th	St Patricks Day # Patron saint of Ireland, brought Christianity.	Irish Christians
20 th	Norouz / Naw Ruz* (New Year) # An ancient Persian holiday celebrating the New Year.	Bahá'í, Zoroastrian
21 st	Shunbun Sai Vernal Equinox Day part of the 7 day festivities of Haru no Higan families visit the graves of relatives and leave offerings.	Shinto
22 nd	Mabon - Autumn Equinox Southern hemisphere celebrates when night and day are equal length. One of three harvest festivals, time to prepare for winter.	Pagan/Wiccan
April		
1 st	Holy Saturday # Commemorates the burial of Christ and his descent into Hades.	Orthodox Christian
2 nd	Palm Sunday/ Triumphal Entry # Beginning of the Orthodox Holy Week, most joyous feasts of the year Celebrates Jesus entry into Jerusalem a week before his crucifixion. Where palm branches aren't available Pussy willow branches are used.	Orthodox Christian

5 th	Ramnivami # Birthday of Lord Rama	Hindu
9 th	Palm Sunday # Jesus triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Celebrated with small palm crosses.	Christian
11 th -12 th and 17 th -18 th	Pesach - Passover* (begins Sunset 10th) # commemorates the story of the Exodus, in which the ancient Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt. Celebrated for seven or eight days. It is one of the most widely observed Jewish holidays. (Major Jewish Holy Days 11th-12th and 17th-18th. Minor Holy days 13th-16th)	Jewish
11 th	Hanuman Jayanti # celebration of Hanuman who was an embodiment of Lord Rama. Devotion and selfless work are encouraged.	Hindu
11 th	Theravada New Year #	Buddhist
13 th	Maundy Thursday # The feast commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.	Christian
14 th	Vaisakhi or Baisakhi # The most holy day for Sikhs celebrating the founding of their community or Khalsa by the 10 th Guru.	Sikh
14 th -16 th	Easter # Commemorates the crucifixion on Good Friday and resurrection on Easter Sunday of Jesus Christ.	Christian
16 th	Pascha Feast – Easter Sunday Celebrates Jesus resurrection.	Orthodox
18 th	Birthday of Guru Angad Dev Sahib Ji and Guru Tegh Bahadur Shib Ji	Sikh
20 th	Mahavir Jayanti** The most important religious holiday. It celebrates the birth of Mahavira, the last Tirthankara	Jain
21 st – 2 nd May	Ridvan (begins sundown 20th) # Ridvan (pronounced "riz-wan") means "Paradise." For twelve days Bahau'llah, resided in a garden in Baghdad and proclaimed his mission. The First, ninth and 12 th Days are the most holy. 21 st April The First day Bahau'llah proclaimed His mission as God's messenger. 29 th April The Ninth day the arrival of Baha'u'llah's family to the Ridvan garden. 2 nd May The twelfth day when Baha'u'llah's family depart for Constantinople.	Bahá'í
23 rd	Yom HaShoah, # Holocaust Remembrance Day (begins at sundown 4 May) #	Jewish

23 rd	St George's day Patron saint of England, a prominent military saint. #	Anglican Christian
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24 th	Isra and Mi'raj*, ** Night journey of prophet Mohamed to Jerusalem and accession	Islamic
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May

1 st	Samhain - The Day of the Ancestor Southern hemisphere has a time of reflection. The barrier between life and death is thinnest.	Pagan/ Wiccan
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5 th	Kodomo No Hi or Tango festival Festival for children's day celebrates young boys and healthy growth	Shinto
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9 th	Narasimha Jayanti	Hindu
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10 th	Visakha Puja** (Buddha Day) # Commemorates the day that the Buddha was born. (date varies also 15 th or 21 st)	Buddhist
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12 th	Laidtat Al Bara'ah Night of worship, forgiveness and salvation (Sunni). Shia and Sunni have different interpretations of this date.	Islamic
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20 th	Dehwa Daymesneh # Birthday of John the Baptist or Yahya Yohana. #	Mandaean
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23 rd	Declaration of the Bab # Marks the beginnings of the Bahai Faith in Shiraz, Persia (Iran). #	Bahá'í
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25 th	Ascension of Christ # Commemorates when Christ returned back to heaven after his resurrection. #	Christian
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27th to 25th June	Ramadan ** *(30 days, dates vary acc. to Lunar sighting) # It is a period of prayer, fasting, charity-giving and self-accountability.	Islamic
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29 th	Ascension of Baha'u'llah # Commemorates when Bahau'llah the Prophet-Founder passed away. (begins sundown the 28 th)	Bahá'í
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31 st	Shavuot * # Shavuot commemorates the day God gave the Torah to Moses at Mount Sinai. (Major Jewish Holy Day begins sundown 30th May until sunset 1st June.)	Jewish
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June

4 th	Pentecost # Celebrates when the Holy Spirit came down on the disciples.	Christian, Orthodox
15 th	Laylat Al Qadir or Lailatul-Qadr "Night of power" "Anyone who stays awake for the Night Of Power with belief and for the pleasure of Allah, all his previous sins will be forgiven." The Night of Power is a night of blessings Allah has blessed this Night.	Islamic
16 th	Matyrdom of Sri Guru Arjan Dev Sahib Ji # Remembrance of those who have suffered for their faith by reading the Guru Granth Sahib.	Sikh
21 st	Yule Winter solstice festival for the southern hemisphere. (Litha- summer solstice festival for the northern hemisphere)	Wicca/Pagan
25 th	Eid Ul-Fitr * * * # Festival to celebrate the end of Ramadan	Islamic
25 th	Ratha Yatra Festival or Chariot festival Procession of the deities.	Hindu
30 th	Noagoshi-no-Oharae Summer purification ritual, to remove sin and impurity.	Shinto
July		
1 st	Coming of the light festival # Celebrates the arrival of the London missionary society in the late 19 th century.	Torres Strait Islander Christians
5 th	Birthday of Guru Harhobind The sixth Sikh guru. He became leader at 11 years of age, born after his mother sought the blessing of Bhai Budha.	Sikh
9 th	Guru Purnima Indian and Nepalese day to honour your teachers.	Hindu, Jain & Buddhist
9 th	Martyrdom of the Bab* # Bahais commemorate the date on which the Bab was executed.	Bahá'í
15 th	Asalha Puja- Buddha's Turning the Wheel of Dharma Day marks the anniversary of Buddha's first teaching in this world. Also the Birthday of Venerable Geshe Kelsang Gyatso, the Founder of the New Kadampa Tradition. (Alternate dates 2 nd or 19 th)	Theravada Buddhist

23rd Birthday Emperor Haile Selassie Rastafari
 Celebration of their Messiah Selassie incarnate who they believed would liberate Africa from their Italian oppressors.

24th Pioneer Day Mormon
 Celebrates the first arrival of the Latter- Day Saints in Salt Lake Valley.

August

1st Tish'a B'Av * Jewish
Annual fast day to commemorate the destruction of the first and second Temple in Jerusalem
(Major Jewish Holy Day begins sundown 31st July until sunset 1st August.)

1st Imbolc - First Stirring pagan/ Wiccan
 Celebrates the start of spring, new birth and lengthening days.

7th Raksha Bandhan # Hindu
 Hindu festival celebrating the bond or protection between siblings. Celebrated by tying a red thread by a sister on the wrist of her brother.

13th Obon Shinto
 Festival to welcome ancestors one of the two most important festivals. (Date varies according to region, either 13th to 16 of July or August)

15th **Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** Catholic/ Orthodox
 When the Virgin Mary ascended into heaven after her death.

15th **Krishna Janmashtami ** #** Hindu
 Celebration of the birth of the Hindu deity Krishna.

25th **Ganesh Chaturthi ** #** Hindu
 10 day festival Vinayaka Chaturthi Celebrates the god Ganesha The elephant headed god is immersed in water to remove misfortunes.

31st (- 3rd sept) Hajj Islamic
 Season of Pilgrimage to Mecca. Hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. Compulsory for all adults, it is one of the five pillars of Islam.

September

1st Eid Al-Adha (festival of sacrifice) ** * # Islamic
It honours the willingness of Abraham (Ibrahim) to sacrifice his promised son, Ishmael (Ismail) before God provided a lamb to sacrifice instead.
Eid greeting "Eid Mubarak" "May you have a blessed Eid".
(exact date yet to be confirmed)

5th Vu Lan/ Ullumbana or Hungry Ghost festival Chinese Buddhist

11 th	Nayrouz- Coptic New year # The oldest Christian Church celebrates new year.	Coptic Orthodox
21 st	Al Hijra/ Muharram Islamic New Year * * * #	Islamic
21 st -22 nd	Rosh Hashana * # literally "head of the year"), is the Jewish New Year. It is the first of the High Holidays or Yamim Noraim ("Days of Awe") (Major Jewish Holy Day begins sundown 20th September)	Jewish
22 nd	Ostara - Spring Equinox Vernal Equinox Pagans rejoice in the Earth's reawakening.	pagan/ Wiccan
30 th	Ashooura/ Ashura # Voluntary fast during the month of Muharram. The tenth day, Ashooura marks when Moosa (Moses) and the Israelites were delivered from Egypt.	Islamic
30 th	Yom Kippur* # Day of Atonement, is the holiest day of the year for the Jews. Its central themes are atonement and repentance. Jews traditionally observe this holy day with a 25-hour period of fasting and intensive prayer, often spending most of the day in synagogue services. Yom Kippur completes the annual period known in Judaism as the High Holy Days. (Major Jewish Holy Day begins sundown 29th.)	Jewish
30 th	Vijay Dashami (Dasera) Triumph of good over evil, concludes the Navaratri festival.	Hindu
October		
2 nd	Navaratri	Hindu
4 th	Moon festival Celebrates the mid-autumn harvest, and the Moon goddess Chang'e. Mythology	Chinese and Asian
5 th -6 th	Sukkot * Feast of Booths, Feast of Tabernacles) is a Biblical holiday. It is one of the three biblically mandated festivals Shalosh regalim on which Jews were commanded to make a pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem. (Major Jewish Holy Day begins sundown 4th.)	Jewish
5 th	Pavarana/ Kathina (Thai and Burmese)	Buddhist (Theravada)
11 th	Shemini Atzeret* # Shemini Atzeret the Eighth [day] of Assembly") In the Diaspora, an additional day is celebrated, the second day being separately referred to as Simchat Torah. In Israel and Reform Judaism, the holidays of Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah are combined into a single day and the names are used interchangeably.	Jewish

12 th	Simchat Torah* "Rejoicing with/of the Torah,") is a celebration marking the conclusion of the annual cycle of public Torah readings, and beginning a new cycle. (Major Jewish Holy Day begins sundown 24 th)	Jewish
19 th	Deepavali or Diwali, Lakshmi Puja * * * # The Festival of Lights. This festival celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.	Hindu, Jain, Sikh
21 st	Birth of the Bab* # Bahais commemorate the birth of the Bab (the "Gate"), the Prophet-Herald of the Bahai Faith. Work is suspended on this day.	Bahá'í
31 st	Beltane - The Day of the Goddess and God Spring fertility festival.	Pagan/ Wiccan
November		
1 st	All Souls/ saints day # A day of prayer for the dead.	Roman Catholic
4 th	Birth of Guru Nanak # Guru Nanak Dev was the founder of the Sikh faith and way of life. Sikhism stresses the importance of doing good deeds rather than merely carrying out rituals.	Sikh
4 th	Dehwa Honina # One of several "pure/holy days" should be spent with family helping others and Tumasha- self baptism.	Mandaean
11 th	Birth of the Baha'u'llah* Commemorate the birth of Baha'u'llah, the Prophet-Founder of the Bahai Faith.	Bahá'í
15 th	Shichi-Go-San 7-5-3 celebration. Celebrates 3 and 7 year old girls and 5 year old boys. These children are dressed in kimonos and visit shrines for blessing.	Shinto
24 th	Martyrdom (Shahidi) of Guru Tegh Bahadur Guru Tegh Bahadur, the 9th Guru, sacrificed his life to defend the religious freedom of another faith.	Sikh
December		
1 st	Mawlid an-Nabi- Prophet Muhammed's Birthday	Islamic
3 rd	First Sunday of Advent # Anticipates the second coming of Christ. Celebrated by candles.	Christian

8 th	<p>Bodhi Day commemorates the day that the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama (Shakyamuni), experienced enlightenment. (dates may vary significantly according to region)</p>	Buddhism
21 st	<p>Litha - Summer Solstice Longest day of the year, and a time of joy and strength for the light traditionally bonfires would be lit, but alternatives must be made in Australia due to summer fire restrictions.</p>	pagan/ Wiccan
13-20 th	<p>Chanukah * Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple (the Second Temple) in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt of the 2nd century BCE. Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days. (Starts sunset the 12th)</p>	Jewish
25 th	<p>Christmas # Commemorates the Birth of Jesus Christ.</p>	Christian
31 st	<p>O'harae Grand Purification ritual to remove all sin, impurity and misfortune.</p>	Shinto

* Jewish, Baha'i and Islamic Holy days begin at sunset of the evening prior to the day listed.

** Certain Hindu and Islamic holy days cannot be definitely determined in advance as they begin when the new moon is sighted.

** Exact Baha'i dates are yet to be confirmed.

officially listed on the Department of social services calendar of cultural and religious dates .