



Enfield Faith Forum

Key Faith Festivals 2021



Buddhism



Christianity



Hinduism



Islam



Judaism



Sikhism

MARCH

28-29	Holi - Hinduism The Festival of Lights honours Lakshmi, the Goddess of Wealth and lasts five days. The festival celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. How it is celebrated or observed today A time for spring cleaning the home, wearing new clothes and exchanging gifts (often sweet and dried fruit)	
27	March - 4 April Passover - Judaism Celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. How it is celebrated or observed today Passover is observed by avoiding leavened grain (any food or drink that contains wheat, barley, rye, oats or spelt) and is highlighted by the Seder meals that include four cups of wine, eating matzah and bitter herbs, and retelling the story of the Exodus.	

14	Vaisakhi or Baisakhi - Sikhism Celebration of the Sikh New Year and commemorates 1699, the year Sikhism was born as a collective faith. How it is celebrated or observed today The festival is marked with processions known as a nagar kirtan. These processions are led through streets, and religious hymns from the Guru Granth Sahib (the Sikh holy book) are recited.	
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24	Dharma Day - Buddhism One of the most important dates, marking the date the religion as established How it is celebrated or observed today Celebrated by Buddhists worldwide, it's considered a time to reflect on the qualities of the Buddha and express gratitude for his teachings which offer humanity a way to find release from its bonds. Dharma refers to the body of the Buddha's teachings.	
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MAY

2	Easter (Pasha) - Greek Orthodox Celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead How it is celebrated or observed today Easter celebrations in Orthodox communities usually include a traditional Easter dinner consisting of red dyed hard boiled eggs (to symbolise the blood of Christ) baked into a braided loaf of bread, spit roasted, herb perfumed baby lamb, and assorted vegetables. The red eggs are usually prepared on Holy Thursday.	
12-13	Eid al Fitr - Islam The Festival of Fast Breaking. It falls on the first day of Shawwal, the month which follows Ramadan in the Islamic calendar. How it is celebrated or observed today At the end of Ramadan, Muslims throughout the world observe a celebration which can last up to 3 days.	
16-18	Shavuot - Judaism The Feast of Weeks. Celebrates the giving of the Torah (Five Books of Moses), the first harvest and the ripening of the first fruits. How it is celebrated or observed today Many people stay up all night studying Torah. It is customary to decorate the synagogue with greens and fresh flowers as a reminder of the spring harvest and the ritual of bringing the first fruits to the Temple. Many Jews prepare and eat dairy foods, often cheesecake or blintzes, as a reminder of the sweetness of Torah.	

SEPTEMBER

6-8	Rosh Hashanah - Judaism The Jewish New Year Festival. How it is celebrated or observed today The Festival emphasises God's Kingship and during the Morning Service, 100 notes are blown on the Shofar, a ram's horn trumpet. Rosh Hashanah is the beginning of the Ten Days of Penitence. It is a period of judgment which ends with the solemn Festival of Yom Kippur.	
15-16	Yom Kippur - Judaism Day of Atonement - a day to reflect on the past year and ask God's forgiveness for any sins committed. How it is celebrated or observed today Jews will fast, refrain from work and attend synagogue services which last the whole day. The sound of the Shofar marks the end of the day.	

APRIL

4	Easter Day - Christianity Celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead How it is celebrated or observed today Special church services and denotes the end of Lent.	
8	Wesak - Buddhism Celebration of Buddha's enlightenment How it is celebrated or observed today Wesak is celebrated on various dates in the spring throughout the world, and each Buddhist culture has its own traditions for the day. It is usually observed during the first full moon in May. Buddhists celebrate the Buddha's three most important life stages on Wesak - Birth, Enlightenment and Death, which traditionally are said to all have happened on the same day of the calendar throughout his life.	
12	April - 11 May Ramadan - Islam The ninth month of the Islamic calendar observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting (Sawm) to commemorate the first revelation of the Quran to the Prophet Muhammad. How it is celebrated or observed today Muslims fast between sunrise and sunset and try to perform thawab (good deeds rewarded by Allah).	

NOVEMBER

4	Diwali - Hinduism The Festival of Lights honours Lakshmi, the Goddess of Wealth and lasts five days. The festival celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. How it is celebrated or observed today A time for spring cleaning the home, wearing new clothes and exchanging gifts (often sweet and dried fruit).	
19	Guru Nanak Jayanti - Sikhism Celebrates the birth of the first Sikh guru. How it is celebrated or observed today Gurdwaras are decorated with flowers, flags and lights and Sikhs sing, pray and eat together.	

JULY

12-23	Eid el Adha - Islam Known as Festival of Sacrifice, it remembers the Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son to God and marks the culmination of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. How it is celebrated or observed today Morning prayers, giving money to charity and either the sacrifice of a sheep/goat or sharing a butchered carcass for a communal meal.	
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DECEMBER

25	Christmas Day - Christianity Commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ. How it is celebrated or observed today Special church services.	
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Dates used are correct to the best of our knowledge. Some dates may vary regionally because they are determined by the lunar calendar.

All Muslim festivals are subject to confirmation of sighting of the crescent moon. Produced by Enfield Faith Forum in partnership with Enfield Council.