**Religious festivals: 2024**

Jan 6th Epiphany

Jan 13th Lohri (Sikh) Celebration of the days becoming longer

Jan 17th Parkash Sri (Sikh) Birth of 10th Guru, Gobind Singh who conferred the name

‘Singh’ on Sikh males & ‘Kaur’ on Sikh females

Jan 21st World Religion Day (Ba’hai)

Jan 24th Tu Bishvat (Jewish) The coming of spring

Jan 18th Bodhi Day (Buddhist)

Jan 18 – 25th Week of prayer for Christian unity (Christian)

Jan 27th Holocaust Memorial Day

Feb 10th Chinese new year (some Buddhists)

Feb 13th Shrove Tuesday (Christian) Tradition of a carnival day, eating before the coming

fast, hence the origin of eating pancakes

Feb 14th Ash Wednesday (Christian). Beginning of Lent, a traditional time of fasting &

preparation for baptism on Easter day of new Christians. Today many Christians will still be ‘ashed’, having the sign of the cross marked on their foreheads

Feb 29th -19th Mar 19 day fast (Baha’i) Fasting is from sunrise to sunset.

March 8th Maha Shivaratri (Hidu)

March 10th Ramadan begins (Muslim) Holy month for Muslims; fasting is from sunrise to

Sunset - Evening of Sun, 10 Mar 2024 – Tue, 9 Apr.

March 19th Equinox / Ostara (Pagan) Welcoming of spring

March 19th - 20th Naw-Ruz (Baha’i) New year; symbolizing spiritual growth & renewal

March 23rd -24th Purim (Jewish) Celebration of how Queen Esther thwarted the attempted genocide

of her people

March 24th Palm Sunday (Eastern Orthodox/Christian)

March 25th Holi (Hindu) Festival of spring / Hola Mohalla (Sikh)

March 28th Holy Thursday (Christian)

March 29th – 31st Good Friday/Easter Sunday (Christian) Marking the crucifixion & resurrection of Jesus

March 21st Vernal Equinox (Pagan)

April 9th (tbc) Eid al Fitr (Muslim) Thanksgiving for the month of Ramadan (evening – evening)

April 13th Vaisakhi (Sikh) The inception of the Khalsa, the ceremony of baptism

April 22nd – 30th Pesach (Jewish) Also known as ‘passover’, celebrating the exodus from Egypt.

April 20th – May 2nd Ridvan (Baha’i) Holiest Baha’I festival, marking Baha’u’llah’s public declaration that he was a manifestation of God.

May 15th Buddha day (Buddhist) Marking birth, enlightenment & death of Buddha

May 19th  Pentecost (Christian) Also known as Whit (white) Sunday.

May 27th – 28th Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha’i) Baha'i recollection of the death of Baha'u'llah, the founder of the religion. Observed by prayers & readings. Work is suspended.

May 30th Corpus Christi (Christian – catholic)

June 10th Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji (Sikh)

June 11th – 13th Shavuot (Jewish) Festival of weeks, marking the giving of the Torah to Moses

June 14th – 19th Haj (Muslim) Holy pilgrimage to Mecca, in Saudi Arabia

June 16th – 20th Eid al Adha (Muslim) A three-day festival recalling Abraham's willingness to

sacrifice his son in obedience to Allah.

June 20th Summer Solstice (Pagan)

July 8th (TBC) 1st Muharram (Muslim) start of the Islamic New Year

July 16th – 17th Youm e- Ashura (Muslim) a day of fasting & reflection

Aug 12th – 13th Tisha B'Av (Jewish)

Aug 15th Feast of the Assumption of Mary (Christian/Catholic)

Sept 23rd Autumnal Equinox / Mabon (Pagan)

Sep 26th – Oct 4th  Navaratri (Hindu) a nine-day festival of music & dance when Hindus worship the female face of the divine

October 3rd Rosh Hashanah, Jewish New Year. A time of introspection, abstinence,

prayer & penitence

Oct 9th – 16th Sukkot – shelters (Jewish) commemoration of the Israelites' 40 years of exile

October 11th – 12th Yom Kippur (Jewish) Highest holy day, the day of atonement, marking the time

when Moses descended from Mt Sinai after the Israelites had turned away &

made a golden calf. Taken as holiday. All go to the synagogue & observe a fast

Oct 31st Diwali / B&i Chorr Divas (Hindu / Sikh) Festival of Lights; victory of good over

evil; for Sikhs, commemoration too of the release the sixth Guru, Hargobind

Oct 31st Samhain (Pagan) Remembering the dead; endings & beginnings.

Nov 1st All saints Day (Christian) This was a major festival in earlier times.

Nov 1st Diwali (Hindu)

Nov 2nd Birth of Baha’u’llah (Baha’i) The prophet of the Baha’i faith Hindu new year (as celebrated in Lancashire)

Nov 2nd All Souls Day (Catholic)

NOV 12th – 19th***INTER FAITH WEEK***

Nov 15th Parkash Sri (Sikh) Birth of Guru Nanak, the birth of the founder of the Sikh religion

Nov 26th – 27th Ascension of ’Abdu’l-Bahá (Baháʼí)

Dec 1st First Sunday of advent (Christian)

Dec 8th Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Christian/Catholic)

Dec 22nd Winter Solstice (Pagan)

Dec 25th – Jan 2nd Hannukah (Jewish) Festival of light, commemorating the re-dedication of the

second temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean revolt

Dec 25th Christmas (Christian) Marks the birth of Jesus who Christians recognize as the

‘messiah’, or chosen one of God.

*Lancashire Forum of Faiths*