

MULTI-FAITH Calendar 2023©

**To be kind is more important
than being right. Often, what
people need is not a brilliant
mind that speaks but a special
heart that listens**

This calendar is not intended to be an exhaustive listing of multi-faith dates but a sample of world wide faith celebrations and events.

Some dates are approximated and will be determined by the sighting of the moon and cultural traditions.

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JANUARY

Multi Faith Calendar 2023

Kindness is a language that the
blind can see and the deaf can hear...

*1 January • NEW YEAR'S DAY • first day of the year in the Gregorian calendar.

*5 January • GOBIND SINGH JI'S BIRTHDAY • Sikh - Guru Gobind Singh was the 10th Sikh guru of Nanak and founder of the Khalsa.

*6 January • CHRISTMAS • Armenian Orthodox Christian Armenian Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on Epiphany, except for Armenians living in Israel, who celebrate Christmas on January 19th.

*6 January • EPIPHANY • Christian - Known as Theophany in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the manifestation of Jesus as Christ.

*7 January • CHRISTMAS • Eastern Christian - Most Orthodox churches celebrate Christmas 13 days later than other Christian churches based on their use of the Julian rather than the Gregorian version of the Western calendar.

7 January • MAHAYANA NEW YEAR • Buddhist - In Mahayana countries the New Year starts on the first full moon day in January.

*14 January • MAKAR SANKRANTI • Hindu - Seasonal celebration marking turning of the sun toward the north.

15 January • WORLD RELIGION DAY • Bahá'í - Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion.

22 January • NEW YEAR • Confucian - Daoist and Buddhist Also known as the Spring Festival, an important festival celebrated at the turn of the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar.

25 January • VASANT PANCHAMI - Hindu - to mark the beginning of spring.

*27 January • UN HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY • Annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust coinciding with the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945.

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FEBRUARY

Multi Faith Calendar 2023

Always be a little kinder than you have too

*2 February • CANDLEMAS - Christian - presentation of Christ in the temple.

*2 February • IMBOLIC CANDLEMAS - Pagan.

*2 February • ST BRIGHID OF KILDARE - Christian.

*3 February • SETSEBUN - Shinto - beginning of spring.

*3 February • ST BLAISE DAY - Christian.

5 February • TU B'SHVAT • Jewish - New Year's Day for Trees, and traditionally the first of the year for tithing fruit of trees. Now a day for environmental awareness and action, such as tree planting.

14 February • VALENTINE'S DAY • Celebrates the idea of romantic love.

*15 February • NIRVANA DAY • Buddhist - Celebrates the day when the historical Buddha achieved Parinirvana, or complete Nirvana, upon the death of his physical body.

18 February • MUSLIM • Laylat al Miraj - Commemorates the Prophet Muhammad's nighttime journey from Mecca to the 'Farthest Mosque' in Jerusalem where he ascended to heaven, was purified, and given the instruction for Muslims to pray five times daily.

18 February • MAHA SHIVARATRI • Hindu - the Great Night of Shiva, is a festival in reverence of the god Shiva.

*20 February • WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE U.N. • day to recognise efforts to achieve fair outcomes for all through employment, social protection, social dialogue, and fundamental principles and rights at work.

21 February • SHROVE TUESDAY • Western Christian - A day of penitence as well as the last chance to feast before Lent begins. Also known as Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday and Carnival Day as this day is observed in many ways worldwide.

22 February • ASH WEDNESDAY • Western Christian - The first day of Lent for Western Christian churches, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter, not counting Sundays.

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MARCH

Multi Faith Calendar 2023

An act of kindness can change a persons life....

*1-19 March • NINETEEN-DAY FAST • Bahá'í - Baha'is between 15 and 70 years of age do not eat or drink from sunrise to sunset and set aside time for prayer and meditation.

6 March • PURIM • Jewish The "Feast of Lots" marks the salvation of the Jews of ancient Persia from extermination.

6 March • HOLI • Hindu - A spring festival in India and Nepal dedicated to the god of pleasure, also known as the festival of colours or the festival of sharing love.

6 March • MAGHA PUJA • Buddhist - Also known as Sangha Day, it commemorates the spontaneous assembly of 1,250 disciples, completely enlightened monks, in the historical Buddha's presence.

*8 March • INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY • Celebration of women worldwide.

11 March • HOLA MOHALLA • Sikh - An annual event which is a martial arts parade historically coinciding with Holi, the Hindu festival of colours.

*17 March • ST. PATRICK'S DAY • Christian - Feast day of the patron saint of Ireland.

*20 March • VERNAL EQUINOX • Marks the first day of the season of spring.

22 March • HUNDU • Hindi New Year. Ramayana begins.

22 March • ISLAM • Ramadan begins. Observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting to commemorate the first revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad
8 April • YOM

27 March • MAWLID • Islam - Birth of Imam Mahdi believed by Twelver Shī'a Muslims to be the Mahdī, an ultimate saviour of humankind and the final Imām.

*28 March • KHORDAD SAL • Zoroastrian - The Zoroastrian celebration of the birth of Zoroaster, the founder of the Zoroastrianism religion.

30 March • RAMANAVAMI • Hindu - Celebrates the birthday of Rama, king of ancient India, hero of the epic Ramayana, and seventh incarnation of Vishnu.

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APRIL

Multi Faith Calendar 2023

Kindness is more powerful than force....

2 April • PALM SUNDAY • Christian - Observed the Sunday before Easter/Pascha to commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

*5 April • PASSOVER/PESACH • Jewish - The eight-day "Feast of Unleavened Bread" celebrates Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage.

6 April • THERAVADA NEW YEAR • Buddhist - In Theravada countries the New Year is celebrated on the first full moon day in April.

7 April • GOOD FRIDAY • Christian - Known as Holy Friday in Eastern Christianity, it commemorates the Crucifixion of Jesus on the Friday before Easter/Pascha.

9 April • EASTER • Christian - Known as Pascha in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.

*14 April • VAISAKHI (Baisakhi) • Sikh - The festival which celebrates the founding of the Sikh community as the Khalsa (community of the initiated).

18 April • YOM HA SHOAH • Judaism- Holocaust remembrance day.

18 April • LAILA AL-QADR • Islamic - Commemorates the night that the Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. It is known as the "Night of Power."

20 April • RAMADAN FINISHES - Islam.

21 April • EID AL-FITR • Islamic - The "Feast of the Breaking of the Fast" marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting from dawn until dusk.

*21 April to 20-May 1 • FESTIVAL OF RIDVÁN • Bahá'í - Annual festival commemorating the 12 days when Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith, resided in a garden called Ridván (Paradise) and publicly proclaimed his mission as God's messenger for this age.

26 April • YOM HA'ATZMAUT - Judaism - Independence Day celebration.

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MAY

Multi Faith Calendar 2023

Kindness never has been and
never will be out of fashion

*1 May • WICCA/NEO PAGIA • Beltane - May Day Festival.

*2 May • TWELTH DAY OF RIDVAN - Baha'i.

*3 May • ST PHILIPS AND ST JAMES DAY - Christian.

4 May • Multi Faith • International day of prayer.

5 May • VISAKHA PUJA • Buddhist - Also known as Vesak or Buddha Day, it marks the birth, spiritual awakening and death (nirvana) of the historical Buddha. (This date may vary based on region or sect.)

8 May • LAG B'OMER • Judaism - Celebrates the end of a divine-sent plague and/or Roman occupation during Rabbi Akiva's lifetime (died c. 135 CE).

14 May • MOTHER'S DAY • Children show appreciation for their mothers and mother figures.

18 May • ASCENSION DAY • Christian - Also known as Holy Thursday, celebrated 40 days after Easter/Pascha, it commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven.

25-27 May • SHAVUOT • Jewish - The "Feast of Weeks" celebrates the covenant established at Sinai between God and Israel, and the revelation of the Ten Commandments.

28 May • PENTECOST • Christian - Also known as Whitsunday, the seventh Sunday after Easter/Pascha commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and women followers of Jesus. Marks the birth of the Christian Church.

*29 May • ASCENSION OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH • Bahá'í - Observance of the anniversary of the death in exile of Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith.

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JUNE

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Be kind to unkind people
They need it the most

4 June • TRINITY SUNDAY - Christian.

11 June • RACE UNITY DAY • Bahá'í - Observance promoting racial harmony and understanding and the essential unity of humanity.

*12 June • ANNE FRANK DAY • Birthday of young Jewish girl whose diary describes her family's experiences hiding from the Nazis through assistance of Gentile friends.

18 June • FATHER'S DAY • Children show appreciation for their fathers and father figures.

*19 June • JUNETEENTH • Originally commemorating the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas in 1865, it is now celebrated throughout the U.S. to honor African-American freedom and achievement.

*20 June • SUMMER SOLSTICE • Marks the first day of the season of summer. The length of time between sunrise and sunset is the longest of the year with the sun shining the farthest from the Southern Hemisphere and the closest to the Northern Hemisphere.

*20 June • WORLD REFUGEE DAY • Raises awareness about the plight of refugees and displaced persons.

*21 June • SUMMER SOLSTICE

28 June • EID AL-ADHA • Islamic - Commemoration of Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience of a command from God. Marks the end of the annual Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca).

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JULY

Multi Faith Calendar 2023

Kindness gives life significance

3 July • DHARMA DAY • Buddhist - Also known as Asalha Puja, it commemorates the historical Buddha's first discourse following his spiritual awakening.

*9 July • MARTYRDOM OF THE BÁB • Bahá'í - Observance of the anniversary of the execution by a firing squad in Tabriz, Persia, of the 30-year-old Siyyid 'Alí-Muhammad, the Báb, the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í Faith.

*11 July • ST BENEDICT DAY - Catholic.

*15 July • ST VLADIMIR THE GREAT DAY - Orthodox Christian.

18 July • MUHARRAM • Islamic - The month of Muharram marks the beginning of the Islamic liturgical year. This first day, al-Hijra, remembers the migration of Muhammad and his followers from Mecca to Medina in 622 CE.

*23 July • EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE BIRTHDAY - Rastafarian.

*25 July • JAMES THE GREAT DAY - Christian.

26 July • TISHA B'AV • Jewish - Mourning of the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem in 586 BCE and 70 CE.

28 July • ASHURA • Islamic - A day of fasting observed on the 10th day of the month of Muharram to celebrate Moses' exodus from Egypt. For Shi'a Muslims, it also marks the climax of the ten-day Remembrance of Muharram, which mourns the martyrdom of Hussein at the Battle of Kerbala.

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AUGUST

Multi Faith Calendar 2023

How beautiful a day becomes when
touched by kindness

*1 August • ULLAMBANA (Obon) • Buddhist - Ullambana, a Sanskrit term that means "hanging upside down and suffering," honours the spirits of past ancestors and strives to relieve aching souls from suffering.

*9 August • INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES • Recognises the challenges indigenous peoples face today, ranging from poverty and disease to dispossession, discrimination, religious persecution and denial of basic human rights.

*12 August • INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY • Celebrates young people and the integral role they play in helping to create a world fit for children.

*23 August • INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND ITS ABOLITION • Memorialises the tragedy of the transatlantic slave trade, coinciding with the anniversary of the uprising in Santo Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) that initiated its abolition.

*30 August • RAKSHA BANDHAN • Hindu - Also called Rakhi, this festival celebrates the protective relationship between brothers and their sisters.

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SEPTEMBER

Multi Faith Calendar 2023

Kindness begins when we understand
that we all have struggles

*1 September • RELIGIOUS YEAR STARTS - Orthodox Christian.

6 September • KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI - Hindu - festival celebrating the birth of Krishna, an avatar of the god Vishnu.

*8 September • NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY - Christian.

*11 September • ETHIOPIAN NEW YEAR - Rastafarian.

15 September • ROSH HASHANAH • Jewish - Beginning of the Jewish New Year and first of the High Holy Days, which marks the beginning of a ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal.

18 September • GANESH CHATURTHI • Hindu - Celebrates the birthday of Ganesha, the elephant-deity.

*22 September AUTUMNAL EQUINOX • Marks the first day of the season of autumn. The sun shines nearly equally on both hemispheres when its fall in the Northern Hemisphere and simultaneously spring in the Southern Hemisphere.

*23 September • AUTUMN EQUINOX - Wicca/Neo Pagan.

24 September • YOM KIPPUR • Jewish - The "Day of Atonement" marks the end of the Ten Days of Penitence that begin with Rosh Hashanah.

27 September • ELEVATION OF THE CROSS - Christian.

27 September • MAWLID AL-NABI (MILAD AL-NABI) • Islamic (Sunni) - The observance of the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad, which is celebrated in Rabi' al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. Shi'a Muslims celebrate it five days later than Sunni Muslims.

*29 September • MICHAEL OF ALL ANGELS - Christian.

29 September • SUKKOT • Jewish - The week-long "Feast of Booths" commemorates the 40-year wandering of the Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land.

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OCTOBER

Multi Faith Calendar 2023

Kindness is not doing something for
someone because they can't, it's doing it
because you can...

*4 October • ST FRANCIS DAY - Catholic Christian.

6 October • SHEMINI ATZERET • Jewish - "The Eighth (Day) of Assembly" is observed on the day immediately following Sukkot.

15 October • NAVARATRI COMMENCES - Hindu - the name translates as 'nine nights' and is a celebration that honours the Mother Goddess Durga.

*17 October • INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY • Call to action for the eradication of poverty and destitution worldwide.

23 October • DUSSEHRA/DASSERA • Hindu - Anniversary of the day when Rama killed the evil demon Ravana. Also known as Durga Puja, which celebrates the goddess Durga.

*24 October • UNITED NATIONS DAY • Commemorates the founding of the world organisation in 1945.

*27 October • BIRTH OF BAHÁ'U'LLAH - Baha'i.

*31 October • HALLOWEEN • The eve of All Saints' Day.

*31 October • REFORMATION DAY • Christian - Commemorates the beginning of the Protestant Reformation in 1517.

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NOVEMBER

Multi Faith Calendar 2023

Unexpected kindness is a powerful agent of human change

*1 November • ALL SAINTS' DAY • Western Christian - Commemorates all known and unknown Christian saints. Eastern Christianity observes it on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

*2 November • ALL SOULS' DAY • Christian - Commemoration of all faithful Christians who are now dead.

*3 November • GUR-GADDI GURU GRANTH SAHIB • Sikh - Since 1708, Sikhs have accepted Sri Guru Granth Sahib as their eternal Guru that holds the spirit of all Ten Gurus of the Sikhs.

*4 November • BANDI-CHHOR DIWAS • Sikh - A commemorative occasion having no fixed date which occurs in October or November and celebrates the release of the Sixth Guru Har Gobind Sahib from imprisonment and coincides with Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights.

*7 November • BIRTH OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH • Bahá'í Anniversary of the birth in 1817 of Bahá'u'lláh, prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith, in Núr, Persia.

12 November • DIWALI • Hindu - Also called Deepavali, "Festival of Lights", it celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.

13 November • VIKRAM - Hindu - New Year festival.

*19 November • GURU NANAK DEV JI'S BIRTHDAY • Sikh - A very important holiday in the Sikh faith as Guru Nanak Dev's was the First Guru of the Sikhs and the Founder of Sikhism.

*25 November • DAY OF THE COVENANT • Bahá'í - Day of the Covenant is a festival observed to commemorate Bahá'u'lláh's appointment of His son, Abdu'l-Baha, as His successor.

*28 November to 24 December • ADVENT • Christian - Advent is a season of spiritual preparation in observance of the birth of Jesus. In Western Christianity, it starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. In Eastern Christianity, the season is longer and begins in the middle of November.

*29 November to 6 December • CHANUKAH • Jewish - Eight-day "Festival of Lights", also known as Hanukkah, celebrating the rededication of the Temple to the service of God in 164 BCE.

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DECEMBER

Kindness is the greatest of gifts because
it can make the greatest of difference

Multi Faith Calendar 2023

*8 December • **BODHI DAY** • Buddhist - Also known as Rohatsu, commemorates the day that the Buddha, Siddharta Gautama, experienced enlightenment or spiritual awakening (bodhi). Celebrated on the eighth day either of December or the 12th month of the lunar calendar.

*12 December • **OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE** • Christian- Celebrates the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (by her title, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of Mexico and the Americas) before Juan Diego, an indigenous convert to Roman Catholicism, on the Mexican hill of Tepeyac in 1531.

*18 December • **HANUKKAH COMMENCES** - Judaism - Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish festival with the first day known as Chanukah, Festival of Lights.

*21 December • **WINTER SOLSTICE** • Marks the first day of the season of winter. The length of time between sunrise and sunset is the shortest of the year with the sun shining closest to the Southern Hemisphere and the farthest from the Northern Hemisphere.

*24 December • **CHRISTMAS EVE** • Christian - Celebration of the arrival of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus.

*25 December • **CHRISTMAS** • Western Christian - Commemorates the birth of Jesus.

*26 December to 1 January • **KWANZAA** • A seven-day celebration honoring African American heritage and its continued vitality. "Kwanzaa" means "first fruits (of the harvest)" in Swahili.

*31 December • **NEW YEAR'S EVE** • In the Gregorian calendar, New Year's Eve, the last day of the year. Churches around the world hold services that welcome in the new year.

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