**Religious festivals: 2025**

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 19th World Religion Day (Ba’hai)

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

Jan 27th Holocaust Memorial Day

Jan 29th Chinese new year (some Buddhists)

Feb 12th – 13th Tu Bishvat (Jewish) The coming of spring

Feb 26th – 27th Maha Shivaratri (Hidu)

Feb 28th Ramadan begins (Muslim) Holy month for Muslims; fasting is from sunrise to

Sunset - Evening of Feb 28th - Mar 30th 2025

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

March 4th Shrove Tuesday (Christian) Tradition of a carnival day, eating before the coming

fast, hence the origin of eating pancakes

Mar 5th 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

March 13th -14th Purim (Jewish) Celebration of how Queen Esther thwarted the attempted genocide

of her people

March 14th Holi (Hindu) Festival of spring / Hola Mohalla (Sikh)

March 20th Equinox / Ostara (Pagan) Welcoming of spring

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

March 20th  Vernal Equinox (Pagan)

March 20th (tbc) Eid al Fitr (Muslim) Thanksgiving for the month of Ramadan (evening – evening)

April 12th – 20th Pesach (Jewish) Also known as ‘passover’, celebrating the exodus from Egypt.

April 13th Palm Sunday (Eastern Orthodox/Christian)

April 14th Vaisakhi (Sikh) The inception of the Khalsa, the ceremony of baptism

April 17th Holy Thursday (Christian)

April 18th – 19th Good Friday/Easter Sunday (Christian) Marking the crucifixion & resurrection of Jesus

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 12th Buddha day (Buddhist) Marking birth, enlightenment & death of Buddha

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 Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji (Sikh)

June 1st – 3rd Shavuot (Jewish) Festival of weeks, marking the giving of the Torah to Moses

June 4th – 9th Haj (Muslim) Holy pilgrimage to Mecca, in Saudi Arabia

June 6th – 10th Eid al Adha (Muslim) A three-day festival recalling Abraham's willingness to

sacrifice his son in obedience to Allah.

June 8th  Pentecost (Christian) Also known as Whit (white) Sunday.

June 19th Corpus Christi (Christian – catholic)

June 21st Summer Solstice (Pagan)

June 25th (TBC) 1st Muharram (Muslim) start of the Islamic New Year

July 5th – 6th Youm e- Ashura (Muslim) a day of fasting & reflection

Aug 2nd Tisha B'Av (Jewish)

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

Sept 22nd Autumnal Equinox / Mabon (Pagan)

Sep 22nd – Oct 1st  Navaratri (Hindu) a nine-day festival of music & dance when Hindus worship the female face of the divine

Oct 1st 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 2nd Rosh Hashanah, Jewish New Year. A time of introspection, abstinence,

prayer & penitence

Oct 16th – 23rd Sukkot – shelters (Jewish) commemoration of the Israelites' 40 years of exile

Oct 20th 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 23rd Birth of Baha’u’llah (Baha’i) The prophet of the Baha’i faith Hindu new year (as celebrated in Lancashire)

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

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

Nov 2nd All Souls Day (Catholic)

NOV 12th – 19th***INTER FAITH WEEK TBC***

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 Bodhi Day (Buddhist)

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

Dec 21st 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*