



Artwork by Holt Park WNW
"It is ok to be me"

Equality & Diversity Art Competition Group Group Entry Winner 2025

**Equality & Diversity
Calendar**



2026

Symbols of some of the major world religions



Sikh



Shinto



Jewish



Pagan



Christian



Rastafari



Hindu



Buddhist



Islam



Zoroastrian



Baha'i



Jain

Notes for 2026

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

DISCLAIMER: This publication may not include all major religious/cultural holidays. Due to variations in cultural and regional religious practices, and the use of different calendars, some dates may vary from what is shown in this calendar.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 New Year's Day 	2	3	4 World Braille Day
5 	6 +	7 	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 	15	16 	17	18 World Religion Day
19	20	21	22	23 	24	25 Burns Night
Cervical Cancer Prevention Week 19th - 25th						
26	27 Holocaust Memorial Day	28	29	30 Parent Mental Health Day	31	

Schedule of Religious Dates

-  **1st January** **Gantan-Sai - New Year (Shinto)** The annual New Year festival of the Shinto religion.
-  **5th January** **Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti Birthday (Sikh)** Marks the birth of the tenth Guru of Sikhs, who also came to be their last guru. (There is some debate as to whether this date is celebrated on the 5th of 6th January)
-  **6th January** **Epiphany (Christian)** Falls on the 12th day after Christmas and is the end of the Christmas season for Western Christians.
-  **7th January** **Ethiopian Christmas (Rastafari)** Rastafarians observe the Ethiopian Christmas Day marked by a large vegetarian or vegan feast.
-  **14th January** **Maghi (Sikh)** Commemorating the heroic fight of the 'Forty Liberated Ones' who laid down their lives to ward off an attack.
-  **14th January** **Makar Sankranti (Hindu)** A Hindu festival celebrated in almost all parts of India, Nepal and Bangladesh. It is a harvest festival that falls on the Magh month of the Hindu Solar Calendar.
-  **16th January** **Lailat al-Miraj (Islam)** Holiday commemorating the Prophet Muhammad's 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.
-  **23rd January** **Vasant Panchami (Hindus, Sikhs & Jain)** In honour of the goddess Saraswati, is a festival that marks the preparation for the arrival of spring



February 2026

◆ LGBT+ History Month ◆ National Heart Month

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1 Dignity Action Day
2 	3 	4 World Cancer Day	5	6 Time to Talk Day	7	8
Race Equality Week 2 nd – 8 th						
9 International Epilepsy Day	10 Safer Internet Day	11	12	13	14	15
National Apprenticeship Week 9 th – 15 th						
16	17 Chinese New Year – Year of the Horse Random Acts of Kindness Day 	18	19 	20	21	22 World Thinking Day
23	24	25	26	27	28 Rare Disease Day	
Eating Disorders Awareness Week 23 rd – 1 st						

Schedule of Religious Dates

	1 st February	Tu B'Shevat (Jewish) Jewish 'New Year for Trees'. Begins sundown the night of 1st February and ends at nightfall of the 2nd.
	1 st February	Imbolc (Pagan) Celebrated by Pagans midway through the winter solstice and spring equinox.
	2 nd February	Candlemas (Christian) Commemorates the presentation of Christ at the temple.
	3 rd February	Setsubun (Shinto) Part of the Spring festival. Shinto rite in which good fortune is invoked and evil exorcised.
	3 rd February	Magha Puja Day (Buddhist) The day commemorates a time when 1,250 Buddhists spontaneously came together to pay their respect to the Buddha. The spiritual aims of the day are to do only good things and to purify one's mind.
	3 rd February	Mid-Sha'ban (Laylat al Bara'at) (Islam) is regarded as a night when the fortunes of individuals for the coming year are decided and when Allah may forgive sinners
	14 th February	Valentine's Day (Christian) Feast day of Saint Valentine and a celebration of love and affection.
	15 th February	Nirvana Day/Parinirvana (Buddhist) Mahayana tradition remembering the death and enlightenment of the Buddha.
	15 th February	Maha Shivaratri (Hindu) Festival celebrated annually in honour of the God Shiva
	17 th February	Ramadan begins (Islam) Begins evening of 17th. A month of fasting to commemorate the first revelation of the Qu'ran to Muhammad according to Islamic belief.
	17 th February	Shrove Tuesday (Christian) The day preceding Ash Wednesday, celebrated in some countries by consuming pancakes.
	18 th February	Ash Wednesday (Christian) The first day of Lent marks the beginning of 40 days of penitence and fasting before Easter.



March 2026

◆ Women's History Month ◆ Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month ◆ Walk All Over Cancer Month

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1 Zero Discrimination Day 
2 	3 World Heating Day	4 	5 World Book Day Cultural Awareness Day	6	7	8 International Women's Day
9	10	11 No Smoking Day	12 Universal Mental Health Day	13 World Sleep Day Young Carers Action Day	14	15 Mother's Day International Day to Combat Islamophobia
16 Disabled Access Day 	17 	18 Global Recycling Day	19 	20 Red Nose Day 	21 World Down Syndrome Day 	22 World Water Day 
Neurodiversity Celebration Week / Nutrition & Hydration Week 16th – 22nd						
23	24	25	26 Purple Day for Epilepsy 	27 World Theatre Day	28	29 BST Begins 
30 World Bipolar Day	31 					

Schedule of Religious Dates

	1 st March	Nineteen Day Fast (Baha'i) Baha'i's fast from sunrise to sunset and spend extra time in prayer.
	1 st March	St David's Day (Christian) Patron Saint of Wales
	2 nd March	Purim (Jewish) Jewish holiday that commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from Haman, who was planning to kill all the Jews. This took place in the ancient Persian Empire.
	4 th March	Holi (Hindu) The 'Festival of Colours' celebrates the blossoming of spring and marks the end of winter, the joys of love and the victory of good over evil. Holi also celebrates the Hindu god Krishna and the legend of Holika and Prahlad.
	4 th March	Hola Mohalla (Sikh) Celebrates Sikh martial skills with displays of horsemanship and mock battles, followed by music and poetry.
	16 th March	Laylat al-Qadr (Islam) Considered the holiest night of the year for Muslims. Lailat al-Qadr, the 'Night of Destiny', marks the night in which the Qu'ran was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad by Allah.
	17 th March	St Patrick's Day (Christian) Patron Saint of Ireland.
	19 th March	Eid al-Fitr (Islam) Eid al-Fitr is the "Festival of Breaking of the Fast", an important religious holiday celebrated by Muslims worldwide that marks the end of Ramadan.
	20 th March	Norooz/Naw-Ruz (Zoroastrian/Baha'i) The traditional Iranian New Year holiday.
	20 th March	Ostara (Pagan) Spring Equinox. Ostara, or Eostra, is an Anglo-Saxon Goddess who represents dawn.
	26 th March	Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian) celebrates the birth anniversary of Zoroaster.
	29 th March	Palm Sunday (Christian) recalls an event in Christian Scripture of Jesus entering into Jerusalem and being greeted by the people waving palm branches. It is a reminder for Christians of the welcoming of Jesus into hearts and of willingness to follow him.
	31 st March	Mahavir Jayanti (Jain) The most important religious festival for Jains. It celebrates the birth of Mahavira.



May 2026

◆ Stroke Awareness Month ◆ Local & Community History Month ◆ National Walking Month

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
4 May Day Bank Holiday 	5	6	7	8	9	10
Dying Matters Awareness Week 6 th – 12 th						
11	12 International Nurses Day	13	14 	15 International Day of Families	16	17 International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia
Mental Health Awareness Week 11 th – 17 th						
18	19	20	21 International Tea Day Global Accessibility Awareness Day 	22	23 	24
Dementia Action Week 18 th – 24 th						
25 Spring Bank Holiday	26 	27	28 	29	30 World MS Day	31

Schedule of Religious Dates

- 1st May **Beltane (Pagan)** The anglicised name for the Gaelic May Day festival. Held about halfway between the spring equinox and the summer solstice.
- 1st May **Vesak - Buddha Day (Buddhist)** Also known as Visakha Puja. Commemorates the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha, which are all said to have happened on the same date.
- 2nd May **Twelfth Day of Ridván (Baha'i)** the day on which Bahá'u'lláh and His family left the garden to travel to Constantinople.
- 4th May **Lag BaOmer (Jewish)** Begins evening of 4th. Celebrates the anniversary of the passing of the great sage and mystic Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, author of the Zohar.
- 14th May **Ascension of Jesus (Christian)** The Feast of the Ascension, also known as Ascension Thursday, Holy Thursday or Ascension Day, commemorates the bodily Ascension of Jesus into Heaven.
- 21st May **Shavuot (Jewish)** Begins on the evening of 21st and ends on the evening of 23rd. Commemorates the revelation of the Torah on Mount Sinai to the Jewish people.
- 23rd May **Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)** The Bahá'í Era began with the Declaration of the Bab, May 22 1844, when the Bab announced that he was a messenger of God and foretold the coming of another messenger of God in the near future.
- 24th May **Hajj Day (Islam)** Begins evening of 24th when the rites of pilgrimage are performed over five days. A pilgrimage is made to the Kaaba, in the sacred city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia.
- 24th May **Pentecost (Christian)** Pentecost is the festival when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- 26th May **Eid al Adha (Islam)** Begins evening of 26th and ends on the evening of 10th June. The festival of sacrifice honours Ibrahim's (Abraham's) willingness to sacrifice his son to God.
- 28th May **Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh (Baha'i)** This important holy day commemorates the anniversary of the death of the founder of the Bahá'í faith, Bahá'u'lláh, and his teachings.

◆ Motor Neurone Disease Awareness Month ◆ Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month ◆ Pride Month

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5 World Environment Day	6	7
Volunteers' Week 1 st – 7 th						
8 World Oceans Day	9	10	11	12	13	14 World Blood Donor Day
Carers Week 8 th -14 th			Men's Health Week 9 th –15 th			
15	16	17	18 Autistic Pride Day	19	20 World Refugee Day	21 Father's Day World Music Day Global MND Awareness Day
LEEDS LEARNING DISABILITY WEEK 15 th - 21 st						
22	23	24	25	26	27 National PTSD Awareness Day Armed Forces Day	28 National Windrush Day
				Deafblind Awareness Week 25 th June – 1 st July		
29	30					
Deafblind Awareness Week – 1 st July						

Schedule of Religious Dates

-  **4th June** **Corpus Christi (Catholic Christian)** The festival of Corpus Christi celebrates the Eucharist (Holy Communion).
-  **16th June** **Martyrdom of Guru Arjun Dev (Sikh)** Guru Arjun was the fifth Sikh Guru and the first Sikh martyr: he gave up his life for the Sikh people. The way in which he died changed the course of Sikhism forever.
-  **16th June** **Al-Hijrah (Islam)** Islamic New Year. Marks the beginning of a new Islamic calendar year, and is the day on which the year count is incremented. Al-Hijra marks the day in AD622 when Muhammad and the first Muslim community migrated from Mecca to Medina. It continues for 29 days. This date is tentative and changes each year due to the lunar calendar.
-  **21st June** **Litha (Pagan)** Midsummer, also known as St John's Day, is the period of time centred upon the summer solstice. It is the longest day of the year.
-  **25th June** **Ashura (Islam)** Marks the tenth day of Muharram in the Islamic calendar. Muslims remember the martyrdom of Hussain ibn Ali, grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, at the Battle of Karbala (AD680). Ashura is marked by all Muslims but it is most important for Shia Muslims for whom it's a solemn day of mourning.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 International Non-Binary People's Day	15	16	17	18 Leeds Pride Nelson Mandela International Day	19 Leeds Pride
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 World Hepatitis Day	29	30	31		

Schedule of Religious Dates

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9th July **Martyrdom of the Báb** (*Baha'i*) Holy day celebrated at noon commemorating the events surrounding the death of the Báb in 1850.
- 
22nd July **Tish'a B'av** (*Jewish*) Begins on the evening of 22nd and ends on evening of 22nd July. Annual fast day which commemorates the destruction of both the First Temple and Second Temple in Jerusalem, which occurred about 655 years apart, but on the same Hebrew calendar date.
- 
23rd July **Birthday of Emperor Haile Selassi** (*Rastafari*) Observes the day on which Emperor Haile Selassie I was born in 1892. Nyabingi session, inclusive of music, chanting and prayer is held to mark the occasion.
- 
29th July **Asalha Puja Day or Dharma Day** (*Buddhist*) One of Theravada Buddhism's most important festivals, celebrating the first teaching of the Buddha.



August 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1 Yorkshire Day 	2
3	4	5	6	7 Cycle to Work Day	8	9 International Day of the World's Indigenous People
10	11	12 International Youth Day	13 	14	15 	16
17	18	19 World Humanitarian Day	20	21	22	23
24	25 	26	27	28 	29	30
31 Summer Bank Holiday						

Schedule of Religious Dates

- 
1st August **Lammas or Lughnasadh** (*Christian/Pagan*) The time of the corn harvest when Pagans give thanks to the Goddess for her gifts. Celts celebrated the Irish God Lugh, while Anglo-Saxons marked the Festival of Hlaefmass - loaf mass or Lammas.
- 
13th-16th August **Obon** (*Buddhist*) Also known as the Festival of Souls, the festival has a very important cultural significance for the Japanese who believe that during this celebration, the souls of their ancestors return to their homes on earth.
- 
15th August **The Assumption** (*Christian*) The Assumption of Mary commemorates Mary's ascension into Heaven.
- 
25th August **Mawlid an Nabi** (*Islam*) Begins on evening of 25th and ends on evening of 26th. Eid Milad ul-Nabi (Mawlid, Milad-un-Nabi). Is the celebration of the life of the Prophet Muhammad. Some Muslims in the United Kingdom mark this occasion by fasting or with special prayers.
- 
28th August **Raksha Bandhan** (*Hindu*) Literally means "the tie or knot of protection". It is an ancient Hindu festival that ritually celebrates the love and duty between brothers and their sisters.



September 2026

◆ Blood Cancer Awareness Month ◆ World Alzheimer's Month

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				ॐ		ॐ
7	8	9	10 World Suicide Prevention Day	11	12	13 World Sepsis Day
	+			✡		
14	15	16	17	18	19 International Talk Like A Pirate Day	20
ॐ					ॐ	✡
National Inclusion Week 14th – 20th						
21 International Day of Peace World Alzheimer's Day	22	23 International Day of Sign Language	24	25 Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning	26	27
		☩		✡		
28	29 World Heart Day	30 National Non-Verbal Awareness Day				
	+					

Schedule of Religious Dates

- ॐ **4th September** **Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)** Festival that celebrates the birth of Krishna.
- ॐ **6th September** **Anant Chaudas (Hindu)** The Anant Chaturdashi fast holds a great deal of importance in the Hindu religion. The festival is also known by the name of Anant Chaudas. The day commemorates the Lord of numerous avatars, Lord Vishnu.
- + **8th September** **Nativity of the Virgin Mary (Christian)** Refers to the traditional birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- ☞ **8th September** **Paryushana (Jain)** One of the most important annual holy events for Jains. Paryushana means "abiding and coming together". It is a time when the Jains take on vows of study and fasting. The festival ends on 28th with the celebration of Kshamavani (forgiveness day).
- ✡ **11th September** **Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)** Begins evening of 11th. Jewish New Year festival which commemorates the creation of the world. The biblical name is Yom Teruah literally "day [of] shouting/blasting", sometimes translated as the Feast of Trumpets.
- ॐ **14th September** **Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)**, also known as Vinayaka Chaturthi, or Vinayaka Chaviti is a Hindu festival celebrating the arrival of Lord Ganesh to earth from Kailash Parvat with his mother Goddess Parvati/Gauri. An auspicious day celebrated to pray to the God so that every new activity that is started is successfully completed without any obstacles.
- ॐ **19th - 27th September** **Navratri (Hindu)** One of the greatest Hindu festivals. It symbolises the triumph of good over evil. Navratri is also known as Durga Puja. During this period Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati are worshipped as three manifestations of Shakti, or cosmic energy.
- ✡ **20th September** **Yom Kippur (Jewish)** Yom Kippur translates as the Day of Atonement and is the holiest date in the Jewish calendar.
- ☩ **23rd September** **Mabon (Pagan)** The Autumn Equinox. Mabon marks the middle of harvest and is a time of equal day and equal night. Mabon is a time of celebration and balance.
- ✡ **25th September** **Sukkot (Jewish)** Translated as Feast of Tabernacles or, sometimes, Feast of the Ingathering. Sukkot has a double significance: one is from the Book of Exodus and marks the end of the harvest time. The other is from the Book of Leviticus and commemorates the Exodus and the dependence of the People of Israel on the will of God.
- + **29th September** **Michaelmas (Christian)** The feast of Saint Michael. The Archangel St. Michael is the Patron Saint of the sea and maritime lands, ships and boatmen, horses and horsemen. He was the Angel who hurled the devil, Lucifer, down from Heaven for his treachery.





October 2026

◆ Black History Month ◆ Down Syndrome Awareness Month ◆ Breast Cancer Awareness Month ◆ ADHD Awareness Month

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 International Day of Older Persons World Vegetarian Day	2	3	4 World Animal Day
				✡		
5 World Teachers' Day	6 World Cerebral Palsy Day	7	8	9	10 World Mental Health Day World Hospice and Palliative Care Day	11
Back Care Awareness Week 5 th - 9 th						
12	13	14	15	16 World Food Day	17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	18
Baby Loss Awareness Week 9 th - 15 th						
19	20	21 International Pronouns Day	22	23	24	25 BST ends
	ॐ					
26	27	28	29 World Stroke Day	30	31 Halloween	
					✝	

Schedule of Religious Dates

- ✡ **2nd October** **Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah (Jewish)** Begins evening of 2nd and ends on evening of 4th October. "Rejoicing of Torah" is a Jewish holiday that celebrates and marks the conclusion of the annual cycle of public Torah readings, and the beginning of a new cycle.
- ॐ **20th October** **Dasara (Hindu)** Dasara/Dussehra marks the end of the Navratri festival and Durga Puja. On the final day of Dasara celebrations, huge effigies of Ravana, Kumbakarna and Meghnath are burned.
- ✝ **31st October** **All Hallows Eve (Christian)** Also called Halloween, it begins the three-day observance of Allhallowtide, the time dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs and all the faithful departed.
- ✝ **31st October** **Samhain (Pagan)** A Gaelic festival marking the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter or the "darker half" of the year.



November 2026

◆ Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month ◆ Movember ◆ UK Disability History Month ◆ Lung Cancer Awareness Month

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1 +
2	3	4	5 Bonfire Night	6	7	8 Remembrance Sunday + ✠ ☸ ॐ ☶ ☵ ☱ ☲ ☳ ☴ ☷ ☸ ☹ ☺ ☻ ☼ ☽ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓ ♀ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓
International Stress Awareness Week 3 rd – 7 th						
9 ☼	10 ☼	11 Armistice Day	12	13 World Kindness Day	14 World Diabetes Day	15
16 UK Disability History Month Begins	17	18	19 International Men's Day	20 World Children's Day Transgender Day of Remembrance	21	22
23	24	25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women ☸ ☼	26	27	28 ☼	29
30 +						

Schedule of Religious Dates

+	1 st November	All Saints' Day (Christian) Christian festival celebrated in honour of all the Christian saints who have no special 'saint day' of their own on the church calendar.
☸ ☼ ॐ	8 th November	Diwali (Hindu/Sikh/Jain) The Hindu Festival of Lights, celebrated every year in autumn in the northern hemisphere. It spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance and hope over despair.
☼	9 th November	Birth of the Bab (Baha'i) Báb, which literally translates as 'the gate', was a prophet and forerunner of the Bahá'í revelation.
☼	10 th November	Birth of the Baha'u'llah (Baha'i) The holy day celebrates the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í faith.
☸	24 th November	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Sikh) was a ninth of ten Gurus who founded the Sikh religion. On this day Guru Tegh Bahadur was martyred when he refused to convert to Islam.
☸	24 th November	Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev (Sikh) Also known as Guru Nanak's Prakash Utsav and Guru Nanak Jayanti, celebrates the birth of the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak. This is one of the most sacred festivals in Sikhism.
☼	25 th November	Day of the Covenant (Baha'i) The Day of the Covenant is the day when Bahá'ís celebrate the appointment of `Abdu'l-Bahá as the Centre of Baha'u'llah's Covenant.
☼	28 th November	Ascension of Abdu'l-Bahá (Baha'i) Abdu'l-Baha was the eldest son of Baha'u'llah, the Prophet-Founder of the Baha'i Faith. The Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Baha' commemorates the death and, retrospectively, the life of 'Abdu'l-Baha', who passed away in 1921.
+	30 th November	St Andrew's Day (Christian) Patron Saint of Scotland.



December 2026

◆ UK Disability History Month (until 16th) ◆ Universal Human Rights Month

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 World Aids Day ✝	2 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	3 International Day of Disabled People	4	5 International Volunteers Day ✡	6 ✝
7	8 ✡	9	10 Human Rights Day	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 ✝ ✡	22	23	24 Christmas Eve ✡ ✝	25 Christmas Day ✝	26 Boxing Day ✡ ✝	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve/ Hogmanay			

Schedule of Religious Dates

- ✝ 1st - 24th December **Advent (Christian)** Advent Sunday is the start of the Christmas season and the beginning of the church year. It is the closest Sunday to St Andrew's Day. Advent Sunday is a time of celebration.
- ✡ 4th - 12th December **Hanukkah (Jewish)** or Chanukah, is a Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple (the Second Temple) in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire. It is also known as the Festival of Lights and the Feast of Dedication
- ✝ 6th December **Saint Nicholas Day (Christian)** The Feast Day of Saint Nicholas is celebrated as a Christian festival with particular regard to his reputation as a bringer of gifts, as well as through the attendance of Mass or worship services.
- ✡ 8th December **Bodhi Day (Buddhist)** Commemorates the day that the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama (Shakyamuni), experienced enlightenment. Bodhi Day is observed in many mainstream Mahayana traditions. In Japanese Zen, it is also known as Rohatsu.
- ✝ ✡ 21st December **Yule - Winter Solstice (Christian/Pagan)** One of the oldest winter celebrations in the world. It celebrates the rebirth of the Sun and the beginning of winter. The Winter Solstice marks the longest night and shortest day of the year.
- ✝ 24th December **Christmas Eve (Christian)** Day or evening preceding the traditional birthday of Jesus.
- ✝ 25th December **Christmas Day (Christian)** Festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ. Also celebrated culturally by a large number of non-Christian people.
- ✡ 26th December **Zartosht No-Diso (Zoroastrian)** Death of the founder of Zoroastrianism, Prophet Zarathustra.
- ✝ 26th December **St Stephen's Day/Boxing Day (Christian)** Saint's day to commemorate Saint Stephen, the first Christian martyr.

