

January

Jan Mon 25 [St Paul's Day \(Christian\)](#)

Anglicans and Catholics celebrate St Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus.

Jan Thu 28 [St Thomas Aquinas \(Christian\)](#)

Doctor of the Church and patron saint of students and theologians.

Jan Sat 30 [Tu B'Shevat \(Jewish\)](#)

The Jewish New Year for trees - For religious accounting purposes all trees have their anniversaries on this festival, regardless of when they were planted.

Jan Sun 31 [Birthday of Guru Har Rai \(Nanakshahi calendar\) \(Sikh\)](#)

Guru Har Rai (1630-1661) was the seventh of the Sikh Gurus.

February

Feb Tue 2 [Candlemas \(Christian\)](#)

This is often called The Presentation of Christ in the Temple and commemorates the day Mary took Jesus to the Temple at Jerusalem to present him to God. Coincides with Groundhog Day (USA)

Imbolc (Pagan) Also called Oimelc and Candlemas, Imbolc celebrates the awakening of the land and the growing power of the Sun.

Feb Wed 3 [Rissun \(Setsubun\) \(Shinto\)](#)

A Spring festival that marks the division between Winter and Spring and is celebrated with beans.

Feb Mon 8 [Parinirvana - Nirvana day \(Buddhist\)](#)

Mahayana Buddhist festival marking the anniversary of Buddha's death. Pure Land Buddhists call the festival "Nirvana Day". Parinirvana is celebrated by some Buddhists on February 8th.

Feb Thu 11 [Our Lady of Lourdes \(Christian\)](#)

Marks the day in 1858 when St Bernadette had her first vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Feb Fri 12 [Mahashivratri \(Hindu\)](#)

Mahashivratri is a Hindu festival dedicated to Shiva, one of the deities of the Hindu Trinity.

Feb Sun 14 [St Valentine's Day \(Christian\)](#)

Now more a secular festival than a religious one. There are at least three different saints named Valentine.

Chinese New Year (Chinese)

Feb Mon 15 [Clean Monday - Beginning of Lent \(Orthodox\) \(Christian\)](#)

The start of the "Great Lent" for Orthodox Christians. This day is called Clean Monday, and occurs seven weeks before the Orthodox Easter **Nirvana day (alternative date) (Buddhist)**

Nirvana Day is also known as Parinirvana and is celebrated by some Buddhists on February 8th. Nirvana Day is the celebration of Buddha's death when he reached total Nirvana, at the age of 80.

Feb Tue 16 [Shrove Tuesday \(Christian\)](#)

Also called Pancake Day and Mardi Gras. The British name of "Pancake Day" comes from the tradition of making pancakes to use up all the food that could not be eaten during Lent.

Feb Wed 17 [Ash Wednesday \(Christian\)](#)

The first day of Lent for Western Christian churches. Lent is the season marking the time Jesus spent in the wilderness.

Feb Thu 25 Fast of Esther (Taanit Esther) (Jewish)

A fast in commemoration of the fast of Mordechai and Esther. This is not a major Jewish fast.

Feb Fri 26 Milad un Nabi (Birthday of the Prophet Muhammad) (Muslim)

Shia Muslims celebrate this 5 days later. Some Muslims do not approve of celebrating the birthday, and regard doing so as a religious innovation.

Feb Sun 28 Purim (Jewish)

Purim commemorates the time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination by the courage of a young Jewish woman called Esther.

Holi (Hindu) The Hindu spring festival.

March

Mar Mon 1 Shushan Purim (Jewish)

In some places Purim is celebrated one day later. In this case it is called Shushan Purim.

Hola Mohalla (Lunar Calendar) (Sikh) Hola Mohalla is three day festival of military exercises and mock battles, together with religious discussions and devotional music, at Anandpur Sahib on the day after Holi.

St David's Day (Christian) Saint David, or Dewi Sant as he's called in the Welsh language, is the patron saint of Wales.

Mar Tue 2 Nineteen Day Fast (start) (Bahai)

Ends 20 March. During this period Baha'is go without food or drink from sunrise to sunset.

Mar Wed 3 Hina-matsuri - Festival of Dolls (Shinto)

Celebrates daughters in the family **Milad un Nabi (Shia) (Muslim)** Birthday of the Prophet Muhammad. Sunni Muslims celebrate this 5 days earlier. Some Muslims do not approve of celebrating the birthday, and regard doing so as a religious innovation.

Mar Fri 5 St Piran's Day (Christian)

Piran is regarded as the patron saint of Cornwall and tin miners. He was born in Ireland. The Cornish flag may have been inspired by the legend that Piran discovered the process for smelting tin: black rock with a white cross of pure metal.

Women's World Day of Prayer (Christian) This dates from 1887 and is celebrated on the first Friday of March

Mar Sun 14 Mothering Sunday (Christian)

Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Lent. Not the same as Mothers' Day in the USA.

Mar Wed 17 St Patrick's Day (Christian) St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland.

Mar Fri 19 St Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Christian)

Mar Sat 20 Spring Equinox - Easter (Pagan) Spring Equinox celebrates the renewed life of the Earth that comes with the Spring.

Mar Sun 21 Naw-Ruz (Bahai) Baha'i New Year Jamshedi Noruz (Fasli) (Zoroastrian)

Zoroastrian New Year's Day in the Fasli calendar. **Shubun-sai - Equinox day (Shinto)**

A day for visiting graves. Also associated with Buddhism in Japan.

Mar Wed 24 Rama Navami (Hindu) Birthday of Lord Rama, an incarnation of Vishnu and the hero of the Ramayana **Swaminarayan Jayanti (Hindu)** This day marks the birth of Lord Swaminarayan for followers of the Swaminarayan tradition.

Mar Thu 25 Annunciation (Christian) Marks the angel Gabriel's message to the Virgin Mary that she would give birth to the incarnation of Christ. It also celebrates the incarnation itself as the date falls 9 months before Christmas.

Mar Fri 26 Khordad Sal (Fasli) (Zoroastrian) The birthday of Zoroaster, celebrated on this date in the Fasli calendar. Also known as the Greater Noruz

Mar Sun 28 Palm Sunday (Christian) The sixth and last Sunday of Lent. Marks the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and the start of Holy Week.

Mahavira Jayanti (Jain) The birth anniversary of Lord Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankar and the "founder" of modern Jainism

Mar Mon 29 Fast of the Firstborn (Jewish)

Observed only by firstborn males, on the day before Passover. This fast celebrates the survival of Jewish firstborn sons from the 10th Plague of Egypt.

Mar Tue 30 Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)

This festival marks the birth of Hanuman, the Monkey God. **Theravada New Year (Buddhist)**

New Year festival for Theravada Buddhists, celebrated for three days from the first full moon day in April

Magha Puja (Buddhist) Fourfold Assembly or Sangha Day. Marks the day Buddha addressed a meeting of 1250 arahants. **Passover (1st day) (Jewish)**

The start of the season of Passover when Jews commemorate the liberation of the Children of Israel who were led out of Egypt by Moses. Work is not permitted on the first two and the last two days of Passover.

Apr Thu 1 Maundy Thursday (Christian)

Christians remember Maundy Thursday as the day of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and established the ceremony known as the Eucharist.

Apr Fri 2 Good Friday (Christian)

Good Friday is the Friday before Easter. It commemorates the execution of Jesus by crucifixion.

Apr Sun 4 Easter Sunday (Western) (Christian)

Christians celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ - his return from death after the Crucifixion. The most important Christian festival. Most years Orthodox Christians celebrate Easter on a different date.

Easter (Orthodox) (Christian) Orthodox Christians celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ - his return from death after the Crucifixion. The most important Christian festival

Apr Tue 6 Passover (final day) (Jewish)

The eighth and final day of Passover. Note that Passover lasts for seven days in Israel.

Apr Sun 11 Yom Hashoah (Jewish)

The Jewish Holocaust Memorial Day. The date is chosen as the closest date (in the Jewish calendar) to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

Apr Tue 13 Vaisakhi (Sikh)

The Sikh New Year Festival, which also commemorates the founding of the Khalsa by the tenth Guru (Guru Gobind Singh) in 1699. Also spelled Baisakhi.

Apr Wed 14 Birthday of Guru Nanak (Nanakshahi calendar) (Sikh)

The founder of the Sikh religion was born on 14 April 1469. This festival is also currently celebrated according to the Lunar Calendar, but this may change. **Hola Mohalla (Nanakshahi Calendar) (Sikh)**

Hola Mohalla is currently celebrated according to the Lunar Calendar, but this may change.

Apr Sun 18 Birthday of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Nanakshahi calendar) (Sikh)

Guru Tegh Bahadur (1621-1675) was the ninth of the Sikh Gurus. **Birthday of Guru Angad Dev (Nanakshahi calendar) (Sikh)**

Guru Angad Dev (1504-1552) was the second of the Sikh Gurus. **Yom Hazikaron (Jewish)**

A day of remembrance on the day preceding Israel's Independence Day.

Apr Mon 19 Yom Ha'atzmaut (Jewish) Israel's Independence Day

Apr Wed 21 Ridvan - first day (Bahai)

The start of a 12 day festival when Baha'is celebrate the day when Baha'u'llah said that he was the prophet predicted by the Bab. The most important Baha'i festival. **Anniversary of Haile Selassie's visit to Jamaica (Rastafari)** Marks the date Haile Selassie I visited Jamaica in 1966. Haile Selassie was the Emperor of Ethiopia. Rastas believe Haile Selassie is God, and that he will return to Africa members of the black community who are living in exile.

Apr Fri 23 St George's Day (Christian) Saint George is the patron saint of England.

Apr Thu 29 Ridvan - ninth day (Bahai) Marks the arrival of Baha'u'llah's family at the Ridvan garden.

May

May Sat 1 Beltane (Pagan) Pagans celebrate Beltane with maypole dances, symbolizing the mystery of the Sacred Marriage of Goddess and God.

May Sun 2 Ridvan - twelfth day (Bahai) Marks Baha'u'llah's departure from the Ridvan garden.

Birthday of Guru Arjan Dev (Nanakshahi calendar) (Sikh) Guru Arjan Dev (1563-1606) was the fifth of the Sikh Gurus **Lag B'Omer (Jewish)**

A minor holiday on the 33rd day of the Omer commemorating a break in the plague during the lifetime of Rabbi Akiva.

May Wed 12 Yom Yerushalayim (Jewish) Jerusalem Day

May Thu 13 Ascension Day (Christian) Ascension Day marks the last earthly appearance of Christ after his resurrection. Christians believe Christ ascended into heaven. It is celebrated 40 days after Easter.

May Sun 16 Ascension Day (Catholic Church in England and Wales) (Christian)

Ascension Day is normally celebrated 40 days after Easter. The Catholic Church in England and Wales celebrates it on the following Sunday instead.

May Wed 19 Shavuot (1st day) (Jewish)

Shavuot is a two-day festival that marks the time when the first harvest was taken to the Temple. Also known as the Festival of Weeks. Work is not permitted for the duration of the festival.

May Sun 23 Pentecost - Whitsun (Christian)

The seventh Sunday after Easter, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and the birth of the Christian Church.

Declaration of the Bab (Bahai) The Bab was the Forerunner of Baha'u'llah, founder of the Baha'i faith. His mission was to prepare the world for the coming of Baha'u'llah and he declared it in the evening of May 22 1844. **Birthday of Guru Amar Das (Nanakshahi calendar) (Sikh)** Guru Amar Das (1479-1574) was the third of the Sikh Gurus.

May Thu 27 Wesak or Buddha day (Buddhist)

The most important of the Buddhist festivals. It celebrates the Buddha's birthday, and, for some Buddhists, also marks his enlightenment and death. **Pictures of Wesak celebrations in Manchester**

May Sat 29 Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Bahai) Anniversary of Baha'u'llah's death in 1892 near Akka, Israel.

May Sun 30 Trinity Sunday (Christian)

The first Sunday after Pentecost. Christians meditate on the nature of God as "Three in one".

All Saints' Day (Orthodox) (Christian) This day honours all saints, known and unknown, of the Christian church. Western churches celebrate All Saints Day on November 1.

Thu 3 Corpus Christi (Christian)

Roman Catholic festival celebrating the "real presence of Christ in the Eucharist". The festival falls on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday.

Jun Sun 6 Corpus Christi (Catholic Church in England and Wales) (Christian)

Corpus Christi falls on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. The Catholic Church in England and Wales celebrates it on the following Sunday instead.

Jun Wed 16 Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev (Nanakshahi calendar) (Sikh)

Guru Arjan Dev was the fifth Sikh Guru and the first Sikh martyr. He also compiled all of the past Gurus' writings into one book, which is now the Sikh holy scripture: the Guru Granth Sahib.

Jun Mon 21 Summer Solstice - Litha (Pagan) Longest day of the year

Jun Tue 29 St Peter's Day (Christian)

Observed by Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Lutheran churches. One of the oldest saints' days.

17th Tammuz (Jewish) An important Jewish fast day.

Jul Mon 5 Birthday of Guru Hargobind (Nanakshahi calendar) (Sikh)

Guru Hargobind (1595-1644) was the sixth of the Sikh Gurus.

Jul Fri 9 Martyrdom of the Bab (Bahai) Anniversary of the Bab's execution in 1850 in Tabriz, Iran.

Jul Thu 15 St Swithin's Day (Christian)

Swithin (or Swithun) was a Saxon bishop in the 9th century. Legend has it that the weather on his feast day, 15 July, will determine the weather for the next 40 days.

Jul Tue 20 Jamshedi Noruz (Qadimi) (Zoroastrian)

Zoroastrian New Year's Day in the Qadimi calendar. **Tisha B'Av (Jewish)**

A solemn day that commemorates a series of tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people over the years, many of which have coincidentally happened on this day.

Jul Fri 23 Birthday of Haile Selassie I (Rastafari)

Haile Selassie was the Emperor of Ethiopia. Rastas believe Haile Selassie is God, and that he will return to Africa members of the black community who are living in exile. **Birthday of Guru Har Krishen (Nanakshahi calendar) (Sikh)** Guru Har Krishan (1656-1664) was the eighth of the Sikh Gurus.

Jul Sat 24 Pioneer Day (Mormon)

Commemorates the arrival in 1847 of the first Latter Day Saints pioneers in Salt Lake Valley.

Jul Sun 25 Khordad Sal (Qadimi) (Zoroastrian)

The birthday of Zoroaster, celebrated on this date in the Qadimi calendar.

Jul Mon 26 Asala - Dharma Day (Buddhist)

The anniversary of the start of Buddha's teaching - his first sermon, "The Wheel of Truth", after his enlightenment.

[Aug](#)

Aug Sun 1 Lughnasadh - Lammass (Pagan)

A harvest festival and one of the Pagan festivals of Celtic origin which split the year into four.

Aug Fri 6 Transfiguration (Christian)

Orthodox Christian feast commemorating the sudden emanation of radiance from the person of Jesus that occurred on the mountain.

Aug Thu 12 Ramadan (start) (Muslim)

Ramadan is the Muslim month of fasting.

Aug Sun 15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Christian)

A largely Roman Catholic festival celebrating their belief that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was taken body and soul into heaven.

Dormition of the Theotokos (Christian)

An Orthodox festival that commemorates the death, resurrection, and glorification of Christ's mother. Dormition means "falling asleep".

Aug Tue 17 Birthday of Marcus Garvey (Rastafari)

Commemorates the Birthday of Marcus Garvey, the Jamaican politician born in 1887 who predicted the crowning of a King in Africa, and instigated the 'Back to Africa' movement.

Aug Thu 19 Jamshedi Noruz (Shenshai) (Zoroastrian)

Zoroastrian New Year's Day in the Shenshai calendar.

Aug Tue 24 Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)

Raksha Bandhan is the Hindu festival that celebrates brotherhood and love. "Raksha Bandhan" means a thread for protection. **Khordad Sal (Shenshai) (Zoroastrian)** The birthday of Zoroaster, celebrated on this date in the Shenshai calendar.

September

Sep Thu 2 Janmashtami - Krishna Jayanti (Hindu)

The Janamashtami festival marks the birth of Krishna, the most highly venerated God in the Hindu pantheon.

Sep Sun 5 Paryushana (Jain)

The most important Jain festival, it consists of eight (Swetambara) or ten (Digambara) days of intensive fasting and repentance. A time of reflection.

Sep Wed 8 Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Christian)

Roman Catholics celebrate the birth of the Virgin Mary. **Feast of the Birth of Mary (Christian)**

Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches celebrate the birth of Mary, mother of Jesus.

Nativity of the Theotokos (Christian) Orthodox Christians celebrate the birth of the Virgin Mary

Sep Thu 9 Rosh Hashanah (1st day) (Jewish)

Jewish New Year. A two-day festival during which work is not permitted.

Sep Fri 10 Eid-UI-Fitr (Muslim)

The end of Ramadan when Muslims celebrate the end of fasting and thank Allah for His help with their month-long act of self-control.

Sep Sat 11 Ethiopian New Year (Rastafari)

The start of the New Year in Ethiopia is recognised because Rastafarians believe Ethiopia to be their spiritual homeland, and a place to which they want to return.

Fast of Gedalliah (Jewish) Fast in memory of the assassination of Gedalliah Ben Achikam, the Governor of Israel during the days of Nebuchadnetzar, King of Babylonia.

Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu) Hindus celebrate the birthday of Lord Ganesh, the elephant-headed God.

Sep Sat 18 Yom Kippur (Jewish) Day of Atonement - the most solemn day of the Jewish year.

Sep Thu 23 Sukkot (Jewish)

Sukkot or The Feast of Tabernacles, commemorates the years that the Jews spent in the desert on their way to the Promised Land, and celebrates the way in which God took special care of them under impossible conditions. Sukkot lasts for seven days, and work is not permitted on the first two days.

Autumn Equinox (Pagan) This day is celebrated when day and night are of equal duration.

Sep Wed 29 Michaelmas/St Michael's Day (Christian)

A feast day in honour of the archangel Michael. Michael is one of only two angels mentioned by name in the Bible (the other being Gabriel.) **Hoshanah Rabbah (Jewish)** The 7th day of Sukkot.

Sep Thu 30 Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)

Shemini Atzeret can be translated as "the assembly of the eighth (day)." In Israel the festival is combined with Simchat Torah.

October

Oct Fri 1 Simchat Torah (Jewish)

Simchat Torah means "Rejoicing in the Torah." This holiday marks the completion of the yearly cycle of weekly Torah readings.

Oct Fri 8 Navaratri (start) (Hindu)

Navaratri (nine nights) symbolises the triumph of good over evil and marks the start of autumn.

Oct Sat 9 Birthday of Guru Ram Das (Nanakshahi calendar) (Sikh)

Guru Ram Das (1534-1581) was the fourth of the Sikh Gurus.

Oct Wed 13 St Edward's Day (Christian)

Edward the Confessor was King of England 1042 - 1066. He built Westminster Abbey where there is a shrine to him - and there the saint is also celebrated on January 5 each year, the anniversary of his death.

Oct Sun 17 Dussera (Hindu)

Celebrates Lord Rama's victory over the evil demon Ravana.

Oct Wed 20 Birth of the Bab (Bahai)

Celebrates the birth of the precursor of the founder of the Baha'i faith.

Oct Sun 31 Hallowe'en (All Hallows' Eve) (Christian)

The night before All Saints' Day (All Hallows' Day). Its origins date back over 2000 years to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. It was celebrated as a Christian festival by the 8th Century.

Samhain (Hallowe'en) (Pagan) Samhain (pronounced 'sow'inn') marks the Feast of the Dead. Many Pagans also celebrate it as the old Celtic New Year (although some mark this at Imbolc).

All Saints' Day (Catholic Church in England and Wales) (Christian) The Catholic Church in England and Wales moves this festival to the nearest Sunday if it falls on a Saturday or Monday.

November

Nov 1 All Saints' Day (Hallowmas, All Hallows') (Christian)

All Saints' Day (also known as All Hallows' Day or Hallowmas) is when Anglicans and Roman Catholics honour all saints, known and unknown, of the Christian church. Orthodox churches celebrate it on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

Nov 2 All Souls' Day (Christian)

All Souls' Day is an opportunity for Roman Catholic and Anglo-Catholic churches to commemorate the faithful departed. They remember and pray for the souls of people who are in Purgatory. All Souls' Day is celebrated on 3 November if the 2nd is a Sunday.

Coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie I (Rastafari) Haile Selassie was the Emperor of Ethiopia. Rastas believe Haile Selassie is God, and that he will return to Africa members of the black community who are living in exile.

Nov Fri 5 Diwali (Hindu)

Diwali, the festival of lights, is the most popular of all the festivals from South Asia. It is an occasion for celebrations by Hindus as well as Jains and Sikhs.

Diwali (Jain) Diwali, the festival of lights, is the most popular of all the festivals from South Asia. It is an occasion for celebrations by Hindus as well as Jains and Sikhs. **Diwali (Sikh)** For Sikhs, Diwali is particularly important because it celebrates the release from prison of the sixth guru, Guru Hargobind, and 52 other princes with him, in 1619.

Nov Thu 11 Armistice Day (Multifaith)

Marks the end of the First World War on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. At 1100 on this day people in the UK pause for 2 minutes of silence to remember those who gave their lives in past conflicts.

Nov Fri 12 Birth of Baha'u'llah (Bahai)

Celebrates the birth in 1817 of the founder of the Baha'i faith.

Nov Sun 14 Remembrance Sunday (Multifaith)

The second Sunday of November is marked by ceremonies at war memorials and cenotaphs to remember those who gave their lives in conflicts.

Nov Mon 15 Shichigosan (7-5-3 festival) (Shinto)

A festival to give thanks for children. Often celebrated on the nearest Sunday to the 15th to allow working parents to take part.

Nov Wed 17 Eid-UI-Adha (Muslim)

Festival of Sacrifice marking the day after Arafat. The Day of Arafat is the most important day in the Hajj ritual. This is a four day holiday

Nov Sun 21 Birthday of Guru Nanak (Lunar Calendar) (Sikh)

This festival may be celebrated by some on the date fixed by the Nanakshahi calendar: April 14

Nov Tue 23 Niinamesei (Shinto)

Labour Thanksgiving Day, a national holiday in Japan and originally a harvest festival.

Nov Wed 24 Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Nanakshahi calendar) (Sikh)

Guru Tegh Bahadur was the ninth Sikh Guru and is honoured as a champion of religious freedom. He was executed in 1675 for refusing to convert to Islam.

Nov Fri 26 Day of the Covenant (Bahai)

This minor festival celebrates the covenant of Baha'u'llah. Baha'is also mark the life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá on this day.

Nov Sun 28 Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha (Bahai)

Marks the death of the son of Baha'u'lláh. This is a minor holy day and work is not suspended.

Advent Sunday (Christian) The beginning of the ecclesiastical year on the Sunday closest to November 30. Advent is the season before Christmas - In Western Christendom, four Sundays are included. In Eastern Christendom, the season is longer and begins in the middle of November

Nov Tue 30 St Andrew's Day (Christian)

Saint Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland, Greece and Russia. The flag of Scotland is the Cross of St. Andrew. St Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was originally a fisherman and became the first Apostle.

December**Dec Thu 2 Hanukkah (Jewish)**

Hanukkah is the Festival of Lights and marks the restoration of the temple by the Maccabees in 164 BCE. Hanukkah is celebrated at roughly the same time as Christmas, but there is no connection at all between the festivals.

Dec Tue 7 Al-Hijira (Muslim)

Islamic New Year. Marks the migration of the Prophet Mohammad and his followers from Mecca to Medina

Dec Wed 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Christian)

Celebrated by Roman Catholics who remember Mary's conception as being without sin, therefore, immaculate.

Bodhi Day (Buddhist) On Bodhi day some Buddhists celebrate Gautama's attainment of enlightenment under the Bodhi tree at Bodhgaya, India.

Dec Mon 13 St Lucy's Day (Christian)

Saint Lucy's Day or the Feast of St. Lucy is marked by Catholics and Orthodox Christians and also celebrated by members of the Lutheran Church.

Dec Thu 16 Ashura (Muslim)

Islamic holy day observed on the 10th of the Islamic month of Muharram. Shi'ite Muslims regard it as a major festival marking the martyrdom of the Prophet's grandson, Hussein..

Dec Tue 21 Winter Solstice - Yule (Pagan)

Yule is the time of the winter solstice, when the sun child is reborn, an image of the return of all new life born through the love of the Gods. Within the Northern Tradition Yule is regarded as the New Year.

Dec Fri 24 Christmas Eve (Christian)

The day before Christmas Day

Dec Sat 25 Christmas Day (Christian)

The day when Western Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Dec Sun 26 Boxing Day (Secular)

The day after Christmas Day. A secular festival. **St Stephen's Day (Christian)**

St Stephen, the first Christian martyr, is celebrated on this day by Roman Catholics. The day is also called the Feast of Stephen.