

Religious and Cultural Festivals Calendar 2009

Buddhism

8th Feb - Parinirvana (Nirvana Day)
Commemorating the death and enlightenment of Buddha.

9th May - Vaisakha Puja (Buddha Day)
Buddhist holiest day, celebrating the birth, enlightenment and death of Buddha.

7th Jul - Asalha Puja (Dharma Day) Celebration of *Gantama Buddha's* first teaching.

8th Dec - Rohatsu (Bodhi Day) Celebrates *Buddha's* Enlightenment.

Chinese

26th Jan - Yuan Tan (Chinese New Year)
The beginning of the New Lunar Year. 2007 is the Year of the Ox

28th May - Tuen Ng (Dragon Boat Festival)
Festival commemorating the suicide of the minister of state: *Qu Yuan* who died in 288 BC. The dragon boat races symbolize the vain attempts of those who raced to save him.

3rd Oct - Zhong Qiu (Moon Festival) A mid-autumn festival that has become interwoven with ancient legends about the moon. Traditionally a time for poets and lovers.

Christianity

25th Feb - Ash Wednesday
First day of *Lenten Fast* (Lent), preceded by *Shrove Tuesday* (Pancake Day).

10th Apr - Good Friday
Commemorating the crucifixion of *Jesus Christ*.

12th Apr - Easter Sunday
Celebrating the resurrection of *Jesus Christ*.

25th Dec - Christmas Day
Celebrating the birth of *Jesus Christ*.

Hinduism

11th Mar - Holi (Festival of Colours)
Spring festival celebrating creation and renewal.

3rd Apr - Ramanavami
Start of an 8-day celebration of the birth of *Lord Rama*.

14th Aug - Janmashtami
Celebration of the appearance on earth of *Lord Krishna*.

19th Sep - Navaratri
A 9-day festival to celebrate the triumph of good over evil.

17th Oct - Diwali (Festival of Lights)
Celebration of good over evil. Victory of *Lord Rama* over the demon *Ravana* and end of over 14 years of exile.

January

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February

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April

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October

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November

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December

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28	29	30	31			

Dates of some holidays, especially those calculated according to the lunar calendar and on sightings of the new moon, may vary geographically. Other observances may vary across cultures and strands of a tradition/religion.

Buddhism
Manchester Buddhist Centre
0161 834 9232

Islam
Eccles & Salford Islamic Mosque
0161 789 2609

Chinese
Chinese Health Information Centre
0161 228 0138

Judaism
Jewish Cultural & Leisure Centre
0161 795 4000

Christianity
see local Yellow Pages directory under "Places of Worship"

Sikhism
Sikh Association and Gurdwara
0161 832 2241

Hinduism
Hindu Council of the North
01772 253 901

NHS Salford Primary Care Trust
0161 212 4800

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Islam

9th Mar - Milad-un-Nabi
Celebrating the birth of the Prophet *Muhammad* in 570ce.

22nd Aug - Ramadan Begins
Islamic month of fasting from dawn to sunset, for 30 days ending with *Eid-ul-Fitr* on 21st Sep.

28th Nov - Eid-ul-Adha (Festival of Sacrifice) Festival marking the end of Hajj and celebrating *Ibrahim's* offer to sacrifice his own son, *Isma'il*.

19th Dec - Al Hijra
Islamic New Year. Celebrates the migration of the Prophet *Muhammad* to Medina in 622ce.

Judaism

9th Apr - Pesach (Passover) An eight-day celebration of the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt.

29th & 30th May - Shavuot (Feast of the Weeks) A two-day celebration of the revelation of the 10 Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai.

19th & 20th Sep - Rosh Hashana (New Year, Feast of Trumpets) Celebrating the creation of the world, beginning ten-days of repentance and self examination.

28th Sep - Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) A 25 hour fast marking the last day of Rosh Hashana and the holiest day of the year.

3rd Oct - Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles) A week long commemoration of the 40 years the Jews spent in the wilderness on the way to freedom in the Promised Land.

11th Dec - Hanukkah (Festival of Lights) An eight-day celebration of the miracle of the oil in the Temple Lamp.

All holidays start at sundown on the preceding day.

Sikhism

5th Jan - Guru Singh's Birthday
Honouring the birth of the tenth and last human Guru (1769-1539ce).

27th Mar - Vaisakhi (Baisakhi/New Year) Founding of the *Khalsa order of the Guru*.

17th Oct - Diwali (Festival of Lights) Celebration of good over evil.

2nd Nov - Guru Nank's Birthday
Honouring the birth of the founder of Sikhism. This is the holiest festival, celebrated over 3 days.

Bank Holidays

1st Jan New Years Day
10th Apr Good Friday
13th Apr Easter Monday
4th May May Day Holiday
25th May Spring Holiday
31st Aug Late Summer Holiday
28th Dec Boxing Day