

Diversity Calendar Dates

A

Advent: Christian time of preparation for observing the birth of Jesus Christ.

Africa Day: United Nations day to promote peace independence unity and solidarity.

Alban Eiler Equinox: Celtic feast of the spring equinox

Al-Hijra: Islamic day to remember the migration of Mohammed and followers to Medina

All Saints Day: Christian day to honour Saints, including those who are not celebrated by individual days.

All Souls Day: Christian day of prayers for the dead.

Anata-Chaturdasi: Jain day for fasting and confession.

Anniversary of Attack on Akal Takhat: Sikh day to remember attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar in 1984.

Annunciation of the Theotokos/Blessed Virgin Mary: Christian celebration of Gabriel announcing to the Virgin Mary the coming of the birth of Jesus.

Asalha Puja Day: Hindu celebration recognizing Lord Buddha's first sermon.

Asara B'Tevet: Judaism – fast commemorating the seize of Jerusalem

Ascension of Abdul Baha: Baha'i celebration of the rising of the spirit of Abdul Baha to the heavenly dwelling.

Ascension of Baha'u'llah: Baha'I recollection of the death of Baha'u'llah, the founder.

Ascension of Christ: Christian recognition of the departure of Jesus from earth after the resurrection.

Ash Wednesday: Christian observance to begin the 40 day season of lent. Ashes are marked on worshippers as a sign of penitence.

Ashura: Islamic optional one day fast recognizing the creation, Noah's departure from the ark and the saving of Moses from the Pharaoh. Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Hussain was martyred on this date in 683/384 AD.

Assumption of Mary: Catholic Christian observance commemorating the belief that the Blessed Virgin Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven at the end of her earthly life.

B

Bandi Chhor Divas: Sikh day of freedom/Day of the release of the prisoner.

Baptism of the Lord Jesus: Christian observance of the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus.

Beltane: Wicca celebration of the conjoining of the goddess with the energy of the god in the sacred marriage which is the basis of all creation.

Birth of Abdul Baha/Declaration of the Bab: Bahai recognition of the declaration in 1844 by Ali Muhammed that he is the anticipated 'Coming One' of all religions

Birth of the Bab: Baha'i celebration honouring the founder of the Babi religion, forerunner to Baha'u'llah and the Baha'i faith.

Birth of Baha'u'llah: Baha'i celebration of the birth of their founder and teacher

Birth of the Dalai Lama: Buddhist celebration of the birth and recognition of the Dalai Lama

Birth of Guanyin: the Buddhist goddess of compassion

Birth of Haile Selassie: Rastafarianism day recognizing the birth of Haile Selassie, the living manifestation of Jah, the all knowing and all loving God.

Birth of Mahavira: Jain celebration of the life of Mahavira, that last Arihants (one who conquers inner enemies like anger, greed, passion and ego) of the Jain religion.

Bodhi Day: Buddhist day to celebrate when Buddha vowed to attain enlightenment.

Buddha Purnima: celebration of the day when Lord Buddha was born, achieved Nirvana and died.

Birthday of L. Ron Hubbard: Scientology celebration of the life and death of the founder of Scientology

Black History Month – The month of February commemorates African American/ Canadian people who have changed the world.

Blessing of the Animals: Christian ceremony conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi.

Buddha Jayanti: Hindu celebration of the day Gautama was born, attained enlightenment and salvation.

C

Candlemas: Christian/Wicca – Christian celebration of the presentation of young Jesus in the temple to the aged Simeon. Wicca celebration of the return of the sun and lengthening of days.

Casse Gateau: Voudon three-day-long celebration with an offering of food to the Loas/Lwas (deities).

Cheesefare Sunday: Orthodox Christian – preparing the faithful for the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. Last day for eating cheese before the Great Lent.

Christmas: Orthodox Christian celebration of the nativity of Jesus Christ.

Christmas Eve: Christian celebration of the arrival of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus.

Christmas/Feast of the Nativity: Christian/Orthodox Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

Cinco de Mayo: Mexican celebration of May 5th, commemorating the battle of Puebla in 1862

Confucius Birthday: Chinese celebration of the teacher, scholar and political figure, whose commentary on Chinese literary classics developed into a pragmatic philosophy for everyday life.

Conversion of St. Paul: Christian celebration of when St. Paul converted to Christianity after seeing a vision of Jesus.

Creation of the Khalsa: Sikh word meaning 'pure'. Khalsa's as Sikhs who have undergone a sacred armit ceremony

Crowning of Haile Selassie: Rastafarian celebration recognizing the crowning of the living manifestation of Jah, the all knowing and all loving God.

D

Day of the Covenant: Baha'I celebration of the covenant given in the last will and testament of Baha'u'llah

Declaration of the Bab: Baha'i day to recognize the declaration of Ali Muhammed that he was the 'coming one'.

Deepavali/Diwali: Hindu celebration – 5 day festival of lights marking the end of the Hindu year.

Dharma Day: Buddhist holy day celebrating the beginning of the Buddha's teachings.

Dio de Los Reyes : Three Kings Day – Christian – see Feast of the Epiphany

Dormition of the Theotokos: Orthodox Christian observance of the death, burial and resurrection, and transfer to heaven of the Virgin Mary.

Durga Puja/Dusserah: Hindu festival celebrating the goddess Durga who can 'redeem in situation of utmost distress'

Dusshera/Navaratri: Hindu festival celebrating he victory of good over evil. Goddess Durga and Lord Rama prevail over the demons.

E

Easter: Most holy Christian day, commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ from his death by crucifixion.

Easter Monday: Christian day representing purification after Easter. Also a day to celebrate the end of Lent.

Ecclesiastical Year begins: Orthodox Christian day to mark new beginnings and define new challenges

Eid-Al-Fitr: Islamic event marking the close of Ramadan. Festival of thanksgiving to Allah.

Eid Ul Adha: Islamic Feast of Sacrifice. Most important feast of Islam. Concludes the Hajj. Three day festival recalling Abrahams willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to Allah.

Elevation of the Life Giving Cross: Orthodox Christian day of recognition for the cross on which Jesus was crucified as a symbol of the Christian religion.

Epiphany: Christian commemoration of the manifestation of the Divine Nature of Jesus Christ.

F

Fast of 19 Days: Baha'is fast for 19 days as part of the annual cycle of holy days. The end of the fast coincides with the Bahai New Year.

Feast of the Holy Family: A Catholic Christian day to celebrate and reflect on the mystery of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Feast of St. Basil: Orthodox Christian commemoration of St. Basil the Great, who wrote a Eucharist Liturgy which bears his name.

Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos: Orthodox Christian celebration of the birth of the Virgin Mary

Feast of the Theophany: Orthodox Christian feast to recall the revelation of the Holy Trinity in the baptism of the Lord

Festival of Cerridwen: Celtic celebration of the Cerridwen, the goddess of rebirth and inspiration.

First Parkash: The Sikh scripture, Adi Granth, is installed in the Golden Temple.

First Selichot Service: Judaism – Selichot are special prayers for forgiveness, said at the beginning of the season for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Founding of the Church: Mormon celebration of Joseph Smith, the founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Four Chaplains Sunday: Interfaith commemoration of the event in WWII when 4 chaplains of Jewish and Christian traditions (Catholic and Protestant) gave their life jackets to others as a troop ship sank in the Atlantic Ocean.

G

Ganesh Chaturthi: A Hindu festival honouring the god of prosperity, prudence and success.

Gantan-sai: Shinto New Year festival observed with prayers for inner renewal, prosperity and health.

Ghambar Ayathrem: Zoroastrian day of celebration for plants and the winter harvest.

Ghambar Mailyarem: Zoroastrian celebration feast in honour of animals

Ghambar Mailyoshem: Zoroastrian celebration of the sky.

Ghambar Paitishahem: Zoroastrian celebration of the creation of earth and the summer harvest.

Gion Matsuri: Shinto celebration of the sun god.

Good Friday: Christian and Orthodox Christian remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus and related events.

Guru Arjan Dev Sahib: Sikh time of remembering those who have suffered for the faith.

Guru Gobind Singh: Sikh honouring of the birth of the Khalsa who lived from 1469-1539 c.e.

Guru Granth Sahib Ji: Sikh remembrance of the eternal installation of the holy books.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji: Sikh's honouring of the birth of the first Sikh teacher who lived from 1469-1539

Guru Purnima: Hindu celebration of the ancient Gurus, in particular Sage Ved Vyas. A guru is seen as a remover of darkness, a teacher.

Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji: Sikh time of remembering the execution of Tegh Bahadur by the Moghul Emperor in India.

H

Hajj: Islamic pilgrimage rites at Mecca. Concludes with Eid ul Adha when those not traveling to Mecca take part.

Hanukkah: Jewish festival of lights that commemorates the Maccabean recapture and rededication of the Jerusalem temple in 165-164 b.c.e.

Hanuman Jayanti: Hindu celebration to commemorate the birth of Hanuman, who represents strength and energy.

Hindu New Year: Sikh event commemorating the founding of the Khalsa, a distinctive Sikh brotherhood

Hijra: Islamic – beginning of the calendar year. Commemorating Muhammad’s journey from Mecca to Medina

Hiroshima Peace Ceremony: Shinto observance of the Hiroshima bombing.

Holi: Hindu spring festival marking the coming of spring, dedicated to fertility and the god of pleasure.

Holy Innocents Day: Christian day of solemn memory of male children killed by King Herod in the attempt to destroy Jesus.

Hola Mohalla: Sikh celebration where mock battles are fought and martial arts are displayed.

Human Rights Day: United Nations Day that marks the anniversary of the assembly’s adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

I

Imbolc: Wiccan festival of lights – celebrating birth and renewal.

Immaculate Conception: Catholic Christian day of celebrating the belief that Mary, Mother of Jesus was preserved from original sin all of her life.

Intercalary Days (Ayyam I Ha): Baha’i calendar is adjusted to match the solar calendar by intercalary days, which leads to Ridvan.

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery: United Nations day to commemorate the adoption of the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

International Children’s Day: United Nations day to recognize the rights of children, for example, the right to: health, education, an adequate standard of living, leisure and play, protection from exploitation, etc.

International Day for Biological Diversity: a day to reflect on the state and importance of biodiversity (the diverse nature of plant and animal life throughout the world).

International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination: United Nations Day – on this day in 1960 police killed 69 people at a peace demonstration in South Africa against apartheid ‘pass laws’. This day calls on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women: United Nations Day -commemorating the anniversary of the assassination in 1961 of the 3 Mirabel sisters, who were political activists in the Dominican Republic.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty: United Nations Day that seeks to promote increased awareness of the need to eradicate poverty with the goal of halving the number of people living in poverty by 2015.

International Day of Families: United Nations Day reflecting the importance which the international community attaches to families regarding their situation around the world.

International Mother's Language Day: United Nations Day – Day to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.

International Day of Older Persons: United Nations day to recognize the value and contributions of those over 60.

International Day of Peace: United Nations global day of cease-fire and non-violence, cessation of all hostilities.

International Day for Persons with Disabilities: United Nations day that aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda: United nations day proclaimed for solemn remembrance of the genocide where at least 500,00 Hutu's and Tutsi's died.

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People: United Nations day to recognize the resolution that provided for the establishment in Palestine of a 'Jewish state' and an 'Arab state', and to help focus attention on achieving this resolution

International Day of Tolerance: United Nations day to campaign for tolerance, trust and non-violence.

International Women's Day: United Nations Day to recognize peace and social progress or women and the full enjoyment of human rights and the fundamental freedoms.

International Day of the Worlds Indigenous People: United Nations day to focus on strengthening international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education and health.

J

Janma Ashtami: Hindu day celebrating the birth of Krishna

K

Karva Chauth Vrat: Hindu festival celebrating the relationships between women and their 'god-sisters'.

Khordad Sal: Zoroastrian remembrance of the birth of the Prophet Zarathushtra

Krishna Jayanti/Janmashami: Hindu commemoration of the birth of Krishna – the 8th incarnation of god Vishnu who took the form of Krishna to destroy the evil king Kansa.

Kwanzaa: An African American and Pan African holiday celebrating family, community and culture.

L

Laetare Sunday: Christian day marking the 4th Sunday of Lent.

Lag B'Omer: Jewish observance of the counting of the day (the link) between Pesach and Shavout.

Lailat al Bara'ah: Islamic Night of Forgiveness. A night of Prayer to Allah for forgiveness of the dead. Preparation for Ramadan through intense prayer.

Lailat-al-Miraj/Lailat Ul Isra Wul Mi'raj:: Islamic observation of Mohammed's (PBUH) night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascension to heaven.

Lailat-Ul-Qadr: Islamic night of destiny. First revelation of Qur'an to Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) . Observed during the last 10 days of Ramadan.

Lammas: Christian/Wiccan first fruits celebration, observed by putting bread baked from the first harvest on the altar.

Lazarus Saturday: Orthodox Christian celebration of the resurrection of Lazarus by Jesus, celebrated on the eve of Palm Sunday, revealing that Jesus is 'the resurrection and life' of all mankind.

Legba Zaou: Voudon ceremony honouring Papa Legba by the eating of a black goat.

Lent: Christian/Orthodox Christian time of reflection and preparation for the Holy week and Easter.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Two-Spirited Pride Week: a week-long event in many cities world-wide that celebrates the diversity and culture of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gendered communities.

Litha: Wicca celebration of the sacred marriage in which energy of the gods is poured into the service of life.

Loco Davi: Voudon: Manger du bois ritual literally ' ritual of eating wood'

Lord's Evening Meal: Jehovah Witness primary annual gathering to celebrate the memorial of Christ's sacrifice and death.

Lorhi: Hinduism – bonfire festival to celebrate the harvesting of the winter crops.

Lunar New Year: Chinese/Korean/Vietnamese: two week celebration of the new year

Lunesa: Wicca festival of the fulfillment of birth, death, and rebirth.

M

Mabon: Wicca Harvest Festival. Fall equinox.

Magha Puja Day: Buddhist celebration of the presentation of teachings by Lord Buddha to an assembly of holy men.

Maghi: Sikhism commemoration of a battle in which 40 Sikhs died for Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

Maha Shivarati: Hindu Festival in honour of Lord Shiva and his marriage to Goddess Parvati. Ceremonies involving prayer and hymns take place mostly at night.

Mahavira Nirvana: Jain celebration of the enlightenment of Lord Mahavira.

Mahayana New Year – Buddhist new year celebration begins on the first full moon of January.

Makar Sankranti: Hinduism celebration of season change

Mange les Morts: Voudon ritual where food offerings are presented to containers where the souls of the dead reside.

Marcus Garvey's Birthday: Rastafarian celebration of the man who began the Rastafarian movement in Africa

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Canadian/American – celebrating the birth, life and dream of Martin Luther King Jr.

Mary, Mother of God: Catholic Christian celebration of the Mother of Jesus.

Maundy Thursday: Christian observance of the First Lord's Supper.

Mawlidan-Nabi: Islamic commemoration of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam.

Meatfare Sunday: Orthodox Christian – preparing the faithful for the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. Last day for eating meat before the Great Lent.

Martyrdom of the Bab: Baha'i observance of the day Ali Mohammed was executed by Persian political and religious powers.

Mezkel: Ethiopian Orthodox Christian celebration commemorating the discovery of the 'true cross' by St. Helena in the fourth century.

Mivilian Bridge Day: Christian day of solemn reflection on the relationship of the spiritual community and the powers of civil government.

Month of Elul begins: Judaism month of repentance in preparation for the high holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

N

N.A.N. Day of Prayer:

National Aboriginal Day: a day proclaimed to celebrate the heritage, cultures and contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people in Canada.

National Coming out Day: National day for members of the LGBT to have the opportunity to announce their sexual orientation to others.

National Day Against Homophobia: Canadian Day to end homophobia and heterosexism

National Day of Prayer: USA Interfaith day to celebrate the freedom to gather, worship and pray.

National Day of Reconciliation: Marks the anniversary of Canada's apology for its treatment of children, parents and families as a result of the Indian Residential Schools system.

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women: a day to remember the Montreal Massacre where 14 women were systematically killed.

Nativity Fast: Orthodox Christian celebration. November 15-December 24 is a period for fasting, abstinence and preparation for the Great Feast of the Nativity.

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin: Christian celebration of the birth of the Virgin Mary

Nativity of John the Baptist: Catholic celebration of the birth of Christ's cousin John

Nativity of Christ: Orthodox Christian celebration of the birth of Christ.

Navarati: Hindu festival of the divine mother honouring Durga, wife of Shiva and seeking her blessing. Also observed as a celebration recalling the days of Lord Krishna.

Naw Ruz: Baha'i observance of the vernal equinox symbolizing spiritual growth and renewal. Zoroastrian New Year.

New Church Day: Swedenborgian Christian celebration of 'The True Christian Religion' text.

New Louis Riel Day: celebration of the man who initiated Manitoba becoming the 5th Canadian Province.

New Year's Day: Zoroastrian

New Year's Day: Rastafarianism

Nisf-Sha'baan: Islamic month when the deeds of the people are taken up to God. Fasting may occur.

Nirvana Day: Buddhism –observance of the death of Buddha.

Nourriture Rituelle des sources tet d'l'eau: Voudon

O

O-Bon: Shinto celebration where spirits of the departed are welcomed back home with feasting and dancing.

O-harai-taisai: Shinto purification ceremony, to rid individuals of offences.

Oimeic/Brigid: Wicca/Paganism – celebration of the beginning of spring with bonfires and purification rites.

Omi Soka: Shinto celebration to exorcise evil from the world, and purifying devotees from offences committed.

Orthodox Sunday: Orthodox Christian celebration of the first Sunday of Lent.

Ostara: Wicca festival of new growth, celebrating the awakening of mother earth. Spring Equinox.

P

Palm Sunday: Christian celebration of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. This day begins the Holy week.

Parinirvana Day: Buddhist festival recognizing the final enlightenment of Buddha.

Paryushana-Parva: Jain festival – meaning 'staying in one place', celebrating when the monks would remain in one place for the rainy season.

Passover Begins: Jewish 8 day celebration of the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt.

Pentacost: Christian observation of the day when God the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in the forms of tongues of fire and rushing wind.

Pioneer Day: Mormon observation of arrival of first settlers at Great Salt Lake, USA in 1847.

Posadas: Christian observance commemorating the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

Pitr Paksha: Hindu 2 week period recognizing the deceased ancestors

Purim: celebration of the deliverance of the Jewish minority in Persia from genocide

Q

Qingming: Chinese traditional celebration of spring, and festival for tending to the graves of the departed loved ones. Also called Chinese Memorial Day or Tomb Sweeping day.

Quds Day: Islamic time of proclaiming solidarity in support of oppressed Muslim people.

R

Raksha Bandhan: Hindu festival honouring the loving ties between brothers and sisters in a family.

Rama Navami: Hindu celebration of the birth of Lord Rama, hero of the religious epic poem 'The Ramayana'.

Ramadan: 9th month of the Islamic calendar, devoted to the commemoration of Muhammad's reception of the divine revelation recorded in the Qur'an.

Ramayana Begins: Hindu celebration of Rama's restoration to the throne after being banished from his kingdom.

Reformation Day: Protestant Christian anniversary of their tradition and its emphasis on the place of the Bible and religious freedom.

Remembrance Day: a day to commemorate the sacrifices of those in the armed forces during the time of war, particularly WWI

Ridvan : Baha'i commemoration of the 12 day period in 1863 when Baha'u'llah declared that he was God's messenger for this age. Work is to be suspended on days 1, 9 and 12 of this festival.

Rohatsu: Buddhist celebration of the enlightenment of Buddha

Rosh Hashanah: Jewish New Year. A time of introspection, abstinence prayer and penitence.

S

Sadeh: Zoroastrian celebration using fire to defy winter

Saka Dawa: Buddhism celebration of Buddha Shakyamuni's enlightenment and the death of his mortal body.

Samhain: Wicca celebration of endings and beginnings. Revering of elders is observed.

Setsubun: Shinto celebration of the change of seasons with the coming of spring with shouts of 'Devil's Out, Good Fortune In'. Bean throwing protects against demons.

Shavu-ot: Jewish celebration of Mose's descent from Mt. Sinai with the 10 commandments.

Shemini Atzeret: Jewish completion of the annual cycle of reading the Torah.

Shichi-Go-San: Shinto celebration. Means 'Seven-Five-Three'. Girls of age 3 and 7 and boys of age 5 and 7 are celebrated on this day, and it is prayed for their good health and growth.

Shrove Tuesday: Christian carnival day on the eve of Ash Wednesday which begins lent, a time of fasting and devotions.

Shunbun No Hi: Shinto spring/fall equinox day to revere of ancestors.

Sikh New Year: A Sikh celebration, not only acknowledging the new year, this festival also celebrates the founding of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh.

Simkhat Torah: Jewish day to celebrate the reading of the law. Synagogue services involving readings, processions and blessing of the children.

St. Brigid of Kildare: Celtic celebration of one of Ireland's patron saints.

St. Nicholas Day: European Christian festival for children to recognize St. Nicholas and honour him by giving gifts.

St. Patrick's Day: Christian celebration of the man who introduced the religion to Ireland

St. Urho's Day: Finish celebration surrounding a patron saint who drove out the grasshoppers, saving the annual harvest.

St. Valentine's Day: Christian celebration of love, named after two martyrs named Valentine.

Sukkot: Jewish feast of Tabernacles which celebrates the harvest and the protection of the people of Isreal as they wandered in the wilderness dwelling in tents.

T

Theravadin New Year: New Year festival for Theravadin Buddhists, celebrating the birth, life and death of Buddha.

Timkat: Eithiopian Christian celebration of the baptism of Jesus Christ.

Tirer Gateau – les Rois: Voudon – 'the epiphany'

Tisha B'Av: A Jewish day of fasting in remembrance of the destruction of the Temple in 586 b.c.e. and 70 c.e.

Transfiguration Sunday: Christian/Orthodox Christian commemoration of the experience on Mt. Tabor when Jesus' physical appearance became brilliant as his connection with traditional Jewish holy figures became evident to the disciples.

Trinity: Christian day honouring the belief in one God with a three-fold nature.

Triodion: Orthodox Christian – period before Easter fro strengthening faith in the Lord

Tu B'Shevat: Judaism celebration of the coming of spring by preparation of foods native to Israel. It is also known as "New Year for Trees" – a method of determining the age of trees for tithing purposes.

Twelfth Night: Christian observance of the close of Christmastide.

U

United Nations Day: commemorating the establishment of the United Nations in 1945.

Ullambana: Buddhist ritual of saving those who have passed on from torment.

V

Vasant Panchami: Hindu celebration dedicated to Saraswati – Goddess of learning.

Visakha Puja – Buddhist Celebration of the birth of Buddha.

Vivekenanda Jayanti: Hindu celebration of Swami Vivekenanda, who preached hope, faith and strength.

W

Waqfal Arafa: Islamic observance day during Hajj when pilgrims pray for forgiveness and mercy

Watch Night: Christian celebration to accept renewed obedience to Christ and to ring in the new year with prayer, preaching and singing.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: to promote the restoration of unity between churches of the faith.

Wesak: Holiest of Buddhist days. Celebrates Buddha's birth, enlightenment and death.

World Aids Day: United Nations day to raise the global awareness of HIV/AIDS.

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development: United Nations day providing the opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live together better.

World Religion Day: Baha'i sponsored day dedicated to the Unity and oneness of all world religions.

Y

Yom Ha/Atzmaut: Jewish recognition of the Independence Day for Israel, commemorating its declaration of independence in 1948.

Yom HaShoah: Jewish Holocaust day. This day has been established to remember the six million Jews that were killed by Nazi's in 1933-1945.

Yom Kippur: Jewish day of Atonement. Holiest day of the Jewish Year.

Yule: A Christian celebration of the light dawning in Jesus. Also, a Wicca celebration of the winter born king, symbolized by the rebirth of the sun.

Z

Zartusht-No-Diso: Zoroastrian anniversary of the death of Prophet Zarathushtra

