

# Key Faith Festivals 2023

Religion	Festival	Purpose	Date	Observations
Christianity	Orthodox Christmas Day	Commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ.	07/01/23	Special church services.
Christianity	Easter Day	Celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.	9/4/23	Special church services and denotes the end of Lent.
Christianity	Christmas Day	Commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ.	25/12/23	Special church services.
Islam	Ramadan	The ninth month of the Islamic calendar observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting (Sawm) to commemorate the first revelation of the Quran to the Prophet Muhammad.	22/3/23 to 21/4/23	Muslims fast between sunrise and sunset and try to perform thawab (good deeds rewarded by Allah).
Islam	Eid al Fitr	The Festival of Fast Breaking. It falls on the first day of Shawwal, the month which follows Ramadan in the Islamic calendar.	21/4/23 to 22/4/23	At the end of Ramadan, Muslims throughout the world observe a celebration which can last up to 3 days.
Islam	Eid-al- Adha	Known as Festival of Sacrifice, it remembers the Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son to God and marks the culmination of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.	28/6/23 to 2/7/23	Morning prayers, giving money to charity and either the sacrifice of a sheep/goat or sharing a butchered carcass for a communal meal.
Hinduism	Holi	Known as the Festival of Colours and marks the beginning of Spring.	8/3/23	Holika Dahan takes place the night before Rangwali Holi. Wood and dung-cakes are burned in a symbolic pyre to signify good defeating evil. The next morning, people gather in public spaces and take part in Rangwali Holi. People chase each other throwing handfuls of coloured powders (known as gual) at one another.
Hinduism	Diwali	The Festival of Lights honours Lakshmi, the Goddess of Wealth and lasts five days. The festival celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.	12/11/23	A time for spring cleaning the home, wearing new clothes and exchanging gifts (often sweet and dried fruit)
Sikhism	Vaisakhi or Baisakhi	Celebration of the Sikh New Year and commemorates 1699, the year Sikhism was born as a collective faith.	14/4/23	The festival is marked with processions known as a nagar kirtan. These processions are led through streets, and religious hymns from the Guru Granth Sahib (the Sikh holy book) are recited.
Sikhism	Guru Nanak Jayanti	Celebrates the birth of the first Sikh guru.	30/11/23	Gurdwaras are decorated with flowers, flags and lights and Sikhs sing, pray and eat together.

NB: The religions named above are the main six identified by the Office for National Statistics in their 'Religion in Enfield' report for the last Census.

Religion	Festival	Purpose	Date	Observations
Judaism	Purim	Celebrates Esther saving the Jewish people.	6/3/23 to 7/3/23	Reading of the scroll of Esther, usually in synagogue.
Judaism	Passover	Celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt.	5/4/23 to 13/4/23	Passover is observed by avoiding leavened grain (any food or drink that contains wheat, barley, rye, oats or spelt) and is highlighted by the Seder meals that include four cups of wine, eating matzah and bitter herbs, and retelling the story of the Exodus.
Judaism	Shavuot	The Feast of Weeks. Celebrates the giving of the Torah (Five Books of Moses), the first harvest and the ripening of the first fruits.	25/5/23 to 27/5/23	Many people stay up all night studying Torah. It is customary to decorate the synagogue with greens and fresh flowers as a reminder of the spring harvest and the ritual of bringing the first fruits to the Temple. Many Jews prepare and eat dairy foods, often cheesecake or blintzes, as a reminder of the sweetness of Torah.
Judaism	Rosh Hashanah	The Jewish New Year Festival.	15/9/23 to 17/9/23	The Festival emphasizes God's Kingship and during the Morning Service, 100 notes are blown on the Shofar, a ram's horn trumpet. Rosh Hashanah is the beginning of the Ten Days of Penitence. It is a period of judgment which ends with the solemn Festival of Yom Kippur.
Judaism	Yom Kippur	Day of Atonement - a day to reflect on the past year and ask God's forgiveness for any sins committed.	24/9/23 to 25/9/23	Jews will fast, refrain from work and attend synagogue services which last the whole day. The sound of the Shofar marks the end of the day.
Buddhism	Vesak	Celebration of Buddha's enlightenment.	5/5/23	Vesak is celebrated on various dates in the spring throughout the world, and each Buddhist culture has its own traditions for the day. It is usually observed during the first full moon in May. Buddhists celebrate the Buddha's three most important life stages on Vesak -Birth, Enlightenment and Death, which traditionally are said to all have happened on the same day of the calendar throughout his life.
Buddhism	Dharma Day	One of the most important dates, marking the date the religion as established.	3/7/23	Celebrated by Buddhists worldwide, it's considered a time to reflect on the qualities of the Buddha and express gratitude for his teachings which offer humanity a way to find release from its bonds. Dharma refers to the body of the Buddha's teachings.

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