

FESTIVAL GREETINGS



In the UK today a range of festivals are celebrated by different faith communities, and greetings are sent for many of them.

The Inter Faith Network office often receives enquiries about the most appropriate festivals on which to send greetings and the form of greeting to use. The attached table of festivals and greetings has been produced with the IFN's Faith Communities Forum which brings together National Faith Community Representative Bodies in IFN membership.

Each faith community has many different festivals but has chosen two festivals on which greetings from those of other faiths and none would be particularly appreciated. These are included in the table with greetings that the faith communities bodies suggest*.

If you are sending a greeting to someone on a festival, it is suitable to use either a card or electronic greeting specially designed for the festival in question, or a neutral one with an appropriate greeting inside.

Some festivals take place on the same date each year and others move. It is important to check the dates each year. The dates for the current year are shown. A number of faith festival calendars are produced each year. One of the most widely used is the calendar produced by IFN member body the Shap Working Party on World Religions in Education. This comes with a booklet explaining each festival (<http://www.shapworkingparty.org.uk/>). Their calendar of dates is used, with their permission, on IFN's website at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/religious-festivals>.

For detailed information on faith community festivals, visit the websites of the relevant faith community bodies. A list of the websites for National Faith Community Bodies in IFN membership can be found at <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/members/list>.

** Because of the different religious calendars and calculations used it is impossible to give exact dates of festivals.*

2018 Festival dates and greetings

	Day	Festival	Faith	Greeting
January				
February	1	Imbolc	Pagan/Druid	Happy Imbolc
March	21	Jamsheedi NoRuz	Zoroastrian	Jamsheedi NoRuz Mubarak
	29	Mahavir Jayanti (Birth of Mahavira)	Jain	Congratulations or Greetings on Mahavir Jayanti
	31	Pesach (Passover)	Jewish	Happy Pesach
	31	Hydesville Day	Spiritualist	Happy Hydesville Day
April	1	Easter	Christian; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (CJCLDS)	Happy Easter
	14	Vaisakhi/Baisakhi (Khalsa Sajna Diwas – Creation of the Khalsa)	Sikh	Happy Vaisakhi/Baisakhi
	21	Festival of Ridvan	Baha'i	Greetings on the Festival of Ridvan
May	29	Wesak, Vesak or Sakya Dawa (Celebration of Buddha's Birth/Death)	Buddhist	Happy Wesak/Vesak
June	15	Eid al-Fitr	Muslim	Eid Mubarak
July	7	Spiritualists' World Peace Day	Spiritualists	Greetings on Spiritualists World Peace Day
August	17	Shahenshai Navroze (Parsi Zoroastrian New Year)	Zoroastrian	Shahenshai Navroze Mubarak
	22	Eid al-Adha	Muslim	Eid Mubarak
	26	Raksha Bandan	Hindu	Raksha Bandan Greetings
September	10	Rosh Hashanah (New Year)	Jewish	Happy New Year (or Shana Tovah)
	13	Samvatsari (The most sacred day of Paryushan)	Jain	Samvatsari Greetings
October				
November	7	Diwali	Hindu; Jain	Diwali Greetings (or Shubh Diwali)
	9/10	The Birth of the Bab and the Birth of Baha'u'llah	Baha'i	
	23	Parkash Diwas Guru Nanak Dev Ji (Birth of Guru Nanak Dev Ji)	Sikh	Greetings on Parkash Diwas Guru Nanak Dev Ji
December	8	Bodhi Day (Celebration of Buddha's enlightenment)	Buddhist	Happy Bodhi Day
	21	Winter Solstice	Pagan/Druid	Happy Winter Solstice
	25	Christmas	Christian; CJCLDS	Happy Christmas