

Faith festivals June 2019

5th June Wednesday, Eid-UI-Fitr/Feast of Fast Breaking (1st Shawwal) (date dependant on lunar cycle)

Tradition: **Muslim**

This is a time - once the fast of Ramadan has been completed - for making gifts to the poor (the charity of the fast, Zakat-ul-Fitr, must be paid before the communal Eid prayer takes place). It is especially a time for new clothes, good food, and presents for children. Families get together and contact friends, especially those who live far away. The community assembles for Eid prayer and a sermon at its mosques. The traditional greeting is 'Eid Mubarak' – 'a happy and blessed Eid'.

6th June Thursday, Ascension Day (40th day after Easter) Christian (Western Churches)

Tradition: **Christian**

This day commemorates the last earthly appearance of the Risen Christ, who, according to Christian belief, ascended into heaven in the presence of many witnesses.

Source <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/religious-festivals>

9th June Sunday, PENTECOST / WHIT SUNDAY Christian (Western Churches)

Tradition: **Christian**

Pentecost, named after the Jewish festival when the disciples of Jesus first proclaimed the Gospel after the gift of the Holy Spirit, is seen as the 'birthday' of the Church. Its alternative name comes from the custom of baptizing converts dressed in white. Source: <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/religious-festivals>

9th-10th June, Shavuot / The Feast of Weeks

Tradition: **Jewish**

Shavuot, also known as the Feast of Weeks, is a two day festival which falls seven weeks after Pesach. It celebrates the revelation of the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai, and also marks the time when the first harvest was taken to the Temple. Synagogues are decorated with flowers and dairy foods are traditionally eaten. For Orthodox Jews work is not permitted throughout the festival. Source:

<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/religious-festivals>

16th June Sunday, Trinity Sunday (Western Churches)

Tradition: **Christian**

Trinity Sunday is celebrated on the Sunday after Pentecost when Christians reflect on the mystery of God, who is seen as One but is understood in and through God, the Father, God, the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit. Trinity Sunday was instituted by Pope Gregory IX in 828CE and is known for being the only major Christian festival that celebrates a Church doctrine rather than an event in its history. Source:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/timelines/zpkc4wx>

16th June Friday, Martyrdom of Guru Arjan

Tradition: **Sikh**

This day commemorates the Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev (in the Nanakshahi calendar). Guru Arjan Dev Ji is the fifth Guru. Born on April 15, 1563 at Goindwal Sahib Ji, he was the youngest son of Guru Ram Das Ji. He became Guru on August 31st, 1581. He was the first Guru to have been born a son of the Guru. The fifth Guru started the construction of the Golden Temple. To emphasise the equality of Sikhism, a Muslim saint, named Mian Mir laid the foundation stone of the shrine. The temple featured four entrances to represent access to all communities. Guru Arjan Dev Ji compiled the Adi Granth Ji, the Sikh scripture containing the writings of all the Gurus up until that time. As another sign of equality in Sikh philosophy, the Guru added the writings of several Muslim and Hindu saints, whose ideas

corresponded to Sikh beliefs. With the passage of time, the Guru attracted a substantial following; therefore the Sikh community undertook a social-political character. In 1606, Emperor Jehangir, the Muslim ruler of India, summoned the Guru Ji to his court on the charge of blessing a rebellious relative of the Emperor's. Upon the Guru's refusal to embrace Islam to escape death, the fifth prophet of the Sikh religion was subject to inhumane torture. Guru Arjan Dev Ji was arrested, tortured and made to sit on hot iron plates at Lahore. He was martyred on May 30th, 1606 at Lahore by Emperor Jahangir. Thus, the martyrdom tradition of Sikhism began with the martyrdom of the Guru Ji himself. From this point forward, Sikhism began to form itself into a community of saint-soldiers. Guru Arjan Dev Ji encouraged the Sikhs to contribute Daswandh (one tenth of the earnings) for community purposes. Guru Arjan Dev Ji was a great thinker, illustrious poet, a practical philosopher and a celebrated saint. He was the first martyr in the Sikh history. He practiced humility and forgiveness. He preached truth, contentment and contemplation. He organised the Sikhs into a community. After the brutal martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji, his son Hargobind Sahib Ji was appointed the Sixth Guru of the Sikhs in line. Source <http://www.theworldofgurunanak.com/guru-arjun-dev-ji.html> . For more see: <http://sgpc.net/gurus/guruarjandev.asp>

20th June Thursday, Day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion

Tradition: **Christian (Anglican)**

The Anglican Church celebrates this on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday (which falls on 11 June this year). The day recalls the act of Jesus in instituting the celebration of Holy Communion. Source: <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/religious-festival>

20th June Thursday, Corpus Christi

Tradition: **Christian -Catholic**

Corpus Christi is mainly celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church, but it is also observed in a few Anglican churches in the United Kingdom. Many Christians, particularly those who belong to the Catholic denomination, receive Communion (Holy Eucharist) on this day. It is also known as the Feast of the Most Holy Body of Christ, as well as the Day of Wreaths. Corpus Christi has been celebrated in honour of the Eucharist since 1246. The name "Corpus Christi" is a Latin phrase that refers to the body of Christ. This event commemorates the Last Supper on the day before Jesus' crucifixion, as described in the Bible.

Some people, particularly children, receive their first Communion during Corpus Christi. This practice, also known as the Eucharist, involves people accepting consecrated bread and wine (or grape juice), which according to Christian faith are Jesus Christ's body and blood. Symbols that portray the event may include: an image of a host (consecrated bread) and chalice to depict the Holy Eucharist; an altar; and a ciborium, which is a chalice-like container used to store consecrated hosts of the sacrament of Eucharist, or the Holy Communion. Source: <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/uk/corpus-christi> , for more <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/04390b.htm>

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