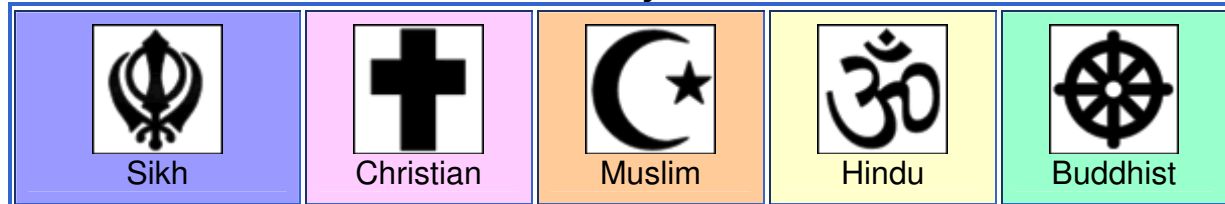










## February 2010



2 February	 <b>Candlemas</b> (Christian) Candlemas marks the day when Jesus was presented in the Temple. Candles for use in churches are usually blessed on this day.
3 February	<b>Setsubun Bean throwing festival</b> (Japanese) This last day of winter is a time to drive out evil spirits with a bean throwing ceremony. Handfuls of beans are thrown into dark corners, with shouts of "Fortune In, Devils Out".
12 February	 <b>Maha Shivaratri</b> (Great Shiva Night) (Hindu) The main festival to worship Shiva, one of the most important forms of God. Many Hindus will fast and prayers are focused on Shiva and his shrines and statues. Each new moon is dedicated to Shiva, but Maha Shivratri is especially important because it is the night when he danced the 'Tandav', his cosmic dance.
14 February	 <b>St Valentines Day</b> (Christian) 2010
14 February	New Moon
14 February	  <b>Chinese New Year</b> Year 4708 - Year of the Tiger. The most important event in the traditional Chinese calendar marking the beginning of the first lunar month. The festival is colourfully celebrated with fireworks, dances (such as the famous Lion dance) and the giving of gifts, flowers and sweets. Gold is a dominant colour to symbolise the wish for prosperity, and red is also much used as a lucky colour. Business accounts should be settled and all debts should be paid before the new year begins. Celebrations can last three days or more.
15 February	 <b>Parinirvana</b> / Nirvana Day (Buddhists) Mahayana Buddhist festival marking the final passing away from this world of Gautama Buddha at Kushinagara, India, at the age of 80.
16 February	  <b>Shrove Tuesday</b> (Christian) 2010 Commonly known as Pancake Day, this is the day before the start of Lent. Christians traditionally 'use up' rich foods in preparation for fasting during Lent.

17 February	<p>✝ <b>Ash Wednesday (Christian) 2010</b>                  Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent, the forty days (not counting Sundays) that lead up to Easter. Ashes are placed on the heads of the faithful as a sign of penitence.</p>
17 February	<p>✝ <b>Lent (Christian) 2010</b>                  The first day of Lent when Christians remember the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness and the temptations he faced during this time.                  Lent is a time of fasting and discipline in preparation for Easter.</p>
26 February	<p>☾ <b>Mawlid-al-Nabi (Milad un Nabi) - (Muslim)</b>                  Commemorates the birth of the Prophet Muhammed in about 570 C.E.</p>
28 February	<p>Full Moon</p>
28 February	<p>✧ <b>Purim (Jewish)</b>                  Purim celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people from the wicked Haman in the days of Queen Esther of Persia. They remember Queen Esther who saved the life of the Jewish people, as told in The Book of Esther. This is read twice in the synagogue. The name of Haman is drowned out with rattles and hooters by congregation whenever it is read. Many people come in fancy dress. Hamantashen (cakes filled with poppy seeds, literally "Haman's pockets") are made and eaten at this time.                  Note that in the Jewish calander, a holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day.</p>
28 February	<p><b>Teng Chieh (Yuen Sui) (Chinese)</b>                  This is the Lantern Festival which marks the first full moon of the year and the lengthening of days. It also marks the end of the celebration of Chinese New Year. Lanterns of all colours but white - the colour of mourning - are hung up.</p>

## Facts a Day Calendar



[www.projectbritain.com/calendar](http://www.projectbritain.com/calendar)