

# 'OCEAN BOUND RIVERS'

## Religions - pathways to God

Rivers and tributaries originate in faraway distant Mountains - with numerous rills collecting together into brooks and streams. It takes years and sometimes ages to come together as tributaries and subsequently rivers small and mighty to shake the forests and overbrim the valleys. And where do they proceed to? East or West, they have only one destination, 'the Ocean'. At end of their long journey, some rivers are reluctant to mingle and become part of the ocean, due to the fear of being lost into the vast ocean and losing their identities as sacred rivers. A buoyant pride and self-righteousness makes them to think that they are holier than others. They question within themselves: "why merge into the ocean and be lost forever ... why not form a large lake and remain isolated from the ocean? .." In spite of their unholy pride and inflated self-image, no river can hold on for long without becoming part of the ocean which beckons them to come into her bosom and become part of her, the eternal ocean ... boundless, limitless and endless.

All the Religions are akin to the rivers - none of them are absolutely perfect in themselves compared to the 'One' who is at the centre of their belief and worship.

Various Religions, Creeds, Denominations and Cults, irrespective of their place of origin and directions they take, points to the one and the only 'ONE' - the fathomless, timeless and omnipotent Almighty God - the one who was, the one who is and the one who will be forever.

If then, why should men fight in their God's name?  
Why should His children murder and destroy each other?  
Where is the place for upper and lower class people?  
Who are those men and women holier than others?  
Rivers or brooks, big or small,  
are all equal before the face of the Ocean.  
She welcomes them happily at her pebbled shores.  
The 'deep blue' does not block or reject any of them -  
as much as God accepts all those who seek Him  
irrespective of their faith and Religious pathways taken.

This year's Calendar titled '**Ocean bound Rivers**' is an effort to compare the paths taken by the various Religions to the rivers that are flowing towards the same Ocean. It focuses on twelve major Religions of the World with the essence of their beliefs and the winding paths taken to reach God the Almighty.



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OCEAN BOUND RIVERS...

JANUARY 2025

CONFUCIANISM

Confucianism founded in ancient China by Confucius (551-479 BCE), is a philosophical system that emphasizes human goodness, ethical behaviour, and the adherence to rituals for a peaceful and prosperous life. It has been interpreted in different ways as a secular humanist philosophy, a religion, or a social code. Confucianism is not a religion in the traditional sense but rather a system of ethical and moral philosophy. Confucius was a philosopher and teacher who lived from 551 to 479 B.C.E. His disciples wrote down several books on Confucius, the most important being the ‘Lunyu’. Confucius taught five basic virtues: kindness, righteousness, sobriety, wisdom and trustworthiness. Confucius also taught that your well-being depends directly on the well-being of others. Six key principles of Confucianism are Ren - Benevolence, Li - Ritual, Xiao - Filial piety, Yi - Righteousness, Zhi - Wisdom, Junzi - The “superior person”. Confucianism was initially suppressed during the Qin Dynasty (221-206 BCE). During Han

Dynasty (202 BCE-220 CE), it was revived and became the state philosophy, influencing Chinese society for over 2,000 years. Scholar Dong Zhongshu (c.179-104 BCE) integrated Confucian ideas with a cosmological framework. Confucianism promotes ancestor worship and human-centered virtues. The golden rule of Confucianism is “do not do unto others what you would not want others to do unto you.” Confucian teachings are closely associated with Buddhism and Taoism. In Confucianism, family values are very important. Children are taught to be very respectful of their parents and obey them. Even when Taoism and Buddhism became more prominent, Confucian values remained deeply embedded in Chinese culture. In the 20th century, Confucianism faced challenges from political reformers, including the Chinese Communist Party. However, Confucianism continues to have a significant influence in China and East Asia.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			மார்கழி 17  1 New Year Mary, Mother of God	2	3 Holy Name of Jesus	4
5 Epiphany of the Lord	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Baptism of the Lord	மார்கழி 29 Bhogi / Lohri13	தை 1 Pongal / Makar Sankranti  14 St. Devasahayam Pillai 	Thiruvalluvar Day  15	Uzhavar Thirunal  16	17 St. Anthony the Abbot	18
19	20 St. Sebastian	21 St. Agnes	22	23	24 St. Francis de Sales	25 The Conversion of St. Paul
Republie Day  26	27 St. Angela Merici	28 St. Thomas Aquinas	29	30	தை 18 Birth of St. Montfort  31 St. John Bosco 	
	Su M T W T F Sa Su M T W T F Sa Su M T W T F Sa Su M T W T F Sa Su M					
DECEMBER 2024	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					
FEBRUARY 2025		1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28				



OCEAN BOUND RIVERS...







FEBRUARY 2025

JUDAISM

Judaism is an Abrahamic monotheistic religion that comprises the collective spiritual, cultural, and legal traditions of the Jewish people. Judaism with 14 million Jews is one of the two oldest Abrahamic religions. Jews believe that there is only one God. They believe they have a special agreement with God called a covenant. The origins of Jewish faith are explained in Torah, the Sacred text of Judaism. According to this text, God first revealed himself to a Hebrew named Abraham, who is known as the father of Judaism. Jews believe that God made a special covenant with Abraham and that his descendants were the chosen people who would create a great Nation. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are the central figures in Jewish history. Jacob took the name Israel, and his children and future generations became Israelites. More than 1,000 years after Abraham, the prophet Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt who were enslaved for years. According to scriptures, God revealed His laws, known as the Ten Commandments to Moses at Mt. Sinai. They worship in

synagogues and their spiritual leaders are called rabbis. The six-pointed Star of David is the symbol of Judaism. Around 1000 B.C., King David ruled the Jewish people. His son Solomon built the first holy Temple in Jerusalem, which became the central place of worship for Jews. The first temple was destroyed by Babylonians and the second by the Romans.

The Jewish sacred text is called the Tanakh or the “Hebrew Bible.” It includes the same books as the Old Testament in the Christian Bible, placed in a slightly different order. The Torah, the first five books of the Tanakh, outlines laws for Jews to follow. The Torah is written on scrolls and kept in a special cabinet called the Aron Hakodish, the Holy Ark. Other important books are Talmud, Shabbat. Mishnah is describing the Jewish code of law that was previously communicated orally. There are three basic groups of Jewish people: Orthodox Jews, Conservative and Reform Jews.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																															
						தை 19 1																															
 2 Presentation of the Lord	3 St. Blaise	 4 St. John de Britto	5 St. Agatha	6	7 St. Gonzalo Garcia	8																															
9	10 St. Scholastica	தை 30  11 Our Lady of Lourdes Thai Poosam	12	மாசி 1 13	14	15																															
16	17	 18 St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara	19	World Day for Social Justice  20	21 St. Peter Damian	22 Chair of St. Peter, the Apostle																															
23	24	 25 BL Rani Maria	மாஹி 16  26	27	28																																
	Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M							
JANUARY 2025				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
MARCH 2025							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



OCEAN BOUND RIVERS...

MARCH 2025

BAHÁ'Í FAITH








The Bahá'í Faith, the youngest of the world's independent religions originated in Persia (Iran) in the year 1844. It has six million believers worldwide. A young Iranian called himself, 'the Báb', proclaimed that a messenger would soon arrive from God, who would be the latest in the line of prophets. Báb was eventually executed by Muslim hierarchy.

In 1852, one of the Báb's persecuted followers had a revelation in prison that he was the prophet that the Báb had foretold. He called himself Bahá'u'lláh, meaning 'The Glory of God'. He was the founder of the Bahá'í faith. His life as a prophet was spent in a series of exiles. He wrote the Kitab-i-Aqdas, one of the key Bahá'í scriptures. Bahá'is believe that Bahá'u'lláh (1817-1892) is the last Messenger of God after Abraham, Moses, Krishna, Buddha, Zoroaster, Jesus Christ and Muhammad. Bahá'u'lláh was succeeded by Abdu'l-Bahá. Abdu'l-Bahá was succeeded by Shoghi Effendi, who created the Bahá'í shrines and gardens in Israel.

The Bahá'í World Centre is located in Haifa, Israel. Baha'i believes that there is one God, each person has a soul that lives even on after death. All religions have a common foundation, men and women should have equal opportunity, extremes of wealth and poverty should be abolished.

The central theme of Bahá'u'lláh's message is that humanity is one single race and that the day has come for its unification in one global society - "The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens."

Main Principles of Bahá'í faith are, the unity of religion, the unity of God and the unity of humanity. Bahá'is believe the purpose of life is to know and love God and to help advance civilization. In the Bahá'í faith, the numbers 19 and 9 hold special significance. The number 9 symbolizes perfection, culmination, and unity. Bahá'í faith symbol is a nine-pointed star. The Bahá'í calendar is structured around 19 months of 19 days after Arabic numerology.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Telugu New Year  30	రామ్రతన 17  31					మాసీ 17 1 St.David
2	3	4 St.Casimir	Ash Wednesday  5	6	7 Sts.Perpetua and Felicity	Women's Day  8 St.John of God
9 First Sunday of Lent	10	11	12	13	మాసీ 30  14 St.Matilda	రామ్రతన 1 15
16	17 St.Patrick	18 St.Cyril of Jerusalem	 19 St.Joseph, Husband of Mary	20	21	World Water Day 22 
23	24	25 Annunciation of the Lord	26	27	28	29
Su M T W T F Sa Su M T W T F Sa Su M T W T F Sa Su M T W T F Sa Su M						
FEBRUARY 2025	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28					
APRIL 2025	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30					



OCEAN BOUND RIVERS...

APRIL 2025

ISLAM

Islam is the second-largest religion in the world after Christianity, with about 1.8 billion Muslims worldwide. It is one of the three monotheistic Abrahamic religions. It shares some beliefs with Judaism and Christianity by tracing its history back to the patriarch Abraham. The last in the series of prophets, according to Muslims, was Muhammad. Muhammad was born in Mecca, Saudi Arabia around 570 CE. He was not happy with the people around him; they were worshipping many gods and had forgotten the message of Prophet Abraham to worship one God. Muhammad meditated in the mountains. On one of those occasions, in the year 610 CE, he received a revelation from God through the angel Jibril (Gabriel). His main message is that there is no God but Allah, meaning ‘God’ in Arabic. Major beliefs of Islam are belief in one God (Allah), belief in the Angels, belief in the holy books revealed to the prophet Moses, Bible and Qur’an (Koran), revealed scripture to the prophet Muhammad and belief in all the prophets sent by God including Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad. They

believe in the Day of Judgment and life after death. Five Pillars of Islam are Shahada: faith in God, Salat: to pray five times a day, Zakat: to give to those in need, Sawm: to fast during Ramadan, Hajj: to make a pilgrimage to Mecca once in a lifetime. Men and women separately visit mosques five times a day. Islam’s legal system is known as Sharia Law, known for its harsh punishments. Two important festivals are Eid al-Adha celebrating the Prophet Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice his son for Allah and Eid al-Fitr marking the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting. Ali ibn Abi Talib, the cousin and son-in-law of Muhammad, Fatima, the daughter of Muhammad, Abu Bakr, the first caliph (leader) of the Muslim community after Muhammad’s death. Imams are divinely chosen leaders with spiritual and political authority in Shia Islam. The countries with the largest Muslim populations are Indonesia and India. Two basic groups of Islam: the Sunnis (about 80% of the Muslims) and the Shi’ites (about 20% of the Muslims).

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																															
		பங்குனி 18																																			
		1	2	3	4	5	St. Vincent Ferrer																														
Ram Navami	World Health Day			Mahaveer Jayanthi																																	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																															
					St. Stanislaus																																
பங்குனி 30	சித்திரை 1			Holy Thursday	Good Friday																																
Palm Sunday	Tamil New Year/Bihu																																				
 13	 14	15	16	17	 18	19																															
	Dr.BR Ambedkar's Birthday																																				
Easter Sunday		World Earth Day																																			
 20	21	 22	23	24	25	26																															
	St. Anselm		 St. George		St. Mark, Evangelist	Our Lady of Good Counsel																															
			சித்திரை 17																																		
27	 28	29	30																																		
	St. Louis Grignon de Montfort	St. Catherine of Siena																																			
	Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M							
MARCH 2025							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
MAY 2025							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31





BUDDHISM

Buddhism is one of the world’s largest religions and originated 2,500 years ago in India. Buddhists believe in reincarnation of the soul, and that by following the teachings of Buddha or dharma, people can reach an enlightened state called ‘nirvana’ and stop the cycle of reincarnation forever. Buddhism is a non-theistic religion (no belief in a creator god). Buddha is considered an extraordinary being, but not a god. Siddhartha Gautama was the first person to reach the state of enlightenment and is still known today as the Buddha. Born in Nepal, Siddhartha Gautama was an Indian prince who, upon seeing poor people and the dying, realized that human life is suffering. He renounced his wealth and adopted the life of a poor beggar, spending his time meditating and traveling. Eventually, Gautama achieved enlightenment underneath the Bodhi tree (the tree of awakening). The Mahabodhi Temple in Bihar, the site of his enlightenment is a major Buddhist pilgrimage site.

The Buddha taught about the Four Noble Truths. namely, cause of suffering (dukkha), origin of suffering (samudaya), cessation of suffering (nirodha) and the path to the cessation of suffering (magga). It emphasizes a monastic lifestyle and meditation as the way to enlightenment. Buddhist monasteries are often sites for community action, giving back to the community and spearheading political action. For the Buddhists karma does not refer to preordained fate. It refers to good or bad actions a person does during his/her lifetime. The Noble Eightfold Path is the way to end suffering and includes: right understanding, right values, right speech, right action, right work, right effort, right mindfulness and right meditation. Buddhist sacred texts are Tipitaka, Sutras and the Book of the Dead. Buddhist monks or bhikkhus follow a strict code of conduct, which includes celibacy. The number of Buddhists worldwide is estimated to be around 500 million to 600 million, making it the fourth-largest religion in the world.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																									
				சித்திரை 18 1 May Day St. Joseph, the Worker	2	3 Sts. Philip & James, Apostles																									
4	5 St. Angelo	6 St. Dominic Savio	7 Birth of Marie Louise Trichet	8	9	10 St. Damien of Molokai																									
Mother's Day 11	Buddha Purnima 12	13 Our Lady of Fatima	சித்திரை 31 14 St. Matthias, the Apostle	வைகாசி 1 15	16 Beatification of Marie Louise Trichet	17																									
18	19	20 St. Bernardine of Siena	21	22	23	Our Lady of the Way 24 Mary, Help of Christians																									
25	26	27 St. Augustine of Canterbury	28	29	30 St. Joan of Arc	வைகாசி 17 31 Visitation of Bl. Virgin Mary																									
Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M									
APRIL 2025		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
JUNE 2025	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	





OCEAN BOUND RIVERS...

JUNE 2025

TAOISM

Taoism or Daoism is an ancient tradition of philosophy and religious belief that is deeply rooted in Chinese customs and worldview. Taoism means the Way. The Tao is the ultimate creative principle of the universe. All things are unified and connected in the Tao.

The philosophy of Taoism has its roots in the teachings of the legendary Laozi (Lao-tzu) and his work Tao-te Ching, who lived in the 6th century BC. Another important figure in Taoism is Zhuangzi (also spelled Chuang Tzu), a philosopher who expanded on Taoist ideas. His work is called Zhuangzi and is considered central to Taoist thought.

Taoism became influential during the Tang Dynasty (618-907 CE) and continued to shape Chinese culture, philosophy, and health practices such as Tai Chi and Qigong. The history of Taoism has always been closely linked with the history of the Chinese dynasties.

After Communist revolution Taoism followers reduced significantly. Today Taoism is practiced by about five million people in China, Japan, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Vietnam. The Tao is not God and is not worshipped. Taoism includes many deities that are worshipped in Taoist temples.

According to Taoist teaching, a person who is in total harmony with the Tao would become an Immortal. Taoist alchemy contributed much to the accumulation of basic chemical knowledge.

Taoist practices include, meditation, feng shui, fortune telling and chanting of scriptures. Taoists believe that good actions will mean a better life for their soul. They are not allowed to tell lies, steal, commit adultery, commit murder or drink alcohol.

“Manifest the simple, embrace the primitive, reduce selfishness, have few desires.” (Lao-tzu)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																												
வைகாசி 18 <div>1</div> <div>Ascension of the Lord</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>	World Environment Day <div>5</div>	<div>6</div>	Bakrid <div>7</div>																												
<div>8</div> <div>Pentecost</div>	<div>9</div> <div>Mary, Mother of the Church</div>	<div>10</div>	<div>11</div> <div>St. Barnabas, the Apostle</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div> <div>St. Anthony of Padua</div>	வைகாசி 31 <div>14</div>																												
ஆனி 1 <div>15</div> <div>The Holy Trinity</div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div>	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div>	International Day of Yoga <div>21</div> <div></div> <div>St. Aloysius Gonzaga</div>																												
<div>22</div> <div>The Body and Blood of Christ</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Nativity of John the Baptist</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div>	Ratha Yatra <div>27</div> <div>Sacred Heart of Jesus</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Immaculate Heart of Mary</div>																												
<div>29</div> <div>Sts. Peter &amp; Paul, the Apostles</div>	ஆனி 16 <div>30</div>																																	
Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M												
MAY 2025				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
JULY 2025	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			



OCEAN BOUND RIVERS...

JULY 2025

SHINTOISM

Shinto means the way of the gods. Shintoism is an Ancient religion of Japan. It started long ago around 1000 B.C.E., but is still practiced by nearly five million people. The followers of Shintoism believe that spiritual powers exist in the natural world. They believe that spirits called “Kami” live in natural places such as in animals, plants, stones, mountains, rivers, people and even the dead. Shinto does not have a founder nor does it have sacred scriptures like the Sutras or the Bible. Shinto is deeply rooted in the Japanese traditions. “Shinto gods” are called Kami. They are sacred spirits which take the form of things and concepts important to life, such as wind, rain, mountains, trees, rivers and fertility. Humans become Kami after they die and are revered by their families. The Sun Goddess Amaterasu is considered Shinto’s most important Kami. In Shinto, there is no absolute right and wrong, and nobody is perfect. The purpose of most Shinto rituals is to keep away evil spirits by

purification, prayers and offerings to the Kami. Shinto shrines are the places of worship and the homes of Kami. Men and women can become priests, and they are allowed to marry. Priests are aided by younger women (miko) during rituals and shrine tasks. People seek support from Shinto by praying at a home altar or by visiting Shrines. A whole range of talismans are available at shrines for traffic safety, good health, success in business, safe childbirth, good exam performance and more. Shinto has no God, no founder and no canonical scriptures. There are no Shinto cemeteries and funerals are held in Buddhist style. Shinto shrines are marked by a special archway called a torii which separate the sacred shrine from the world outside. In shrines, people pay their respects to the Kami and celebrate with food and drink. Prayers are addressed to the family ancestors.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		ஆனி 17 1	2	 3 St. Thomas, the Apostle	4	5 St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria
Muharram  6 St. Maria Goretti	7	8	9	Guru Purnima  10 St. Benedict	11 World Population Day	12
13	14	Kamarajar's Birthday  15 St. Bonaventure	ஆனி 32  16 Our Lady of Mount Carmel	ஆடி 1 17 St. Frederick	18	19
20	21	22 St. Mary Magdalene	23	24	25 St. James, the Apostle	26 Sts. Joachim & Anne
27	 28 St. Alphonsa Muttathupadathu	29 Sts. Martha, Mary & Lazarus	30	ஆடி 15 31  St. Ignatius of Loyola		
	Su M T W T F Sa Su M T W T F Sa Su M T W T F Sa Su M T W T F Sa Su M					
JUNE 2025	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30					
AUGUST 2025		1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31				



OCEAN BOUND RIVERS...

AUGUST 2025

JAINISM

Jainism is among the 3 oldest religions of India along with Hinduism and Buddhism. The main principle of Jainism is “non-violence” and ensuring no harm is done to any living being ... including insects and plants. This they believe is the path to enlightenment. Jains believe in reincarnation which is attributed to one’s karma.

Jainism became popular in the 6th century BC during the time of Mahavira (599-527 BCE). Mahavira Vardhamana was born a warrior prince during 540 B.C. At age 30, he renounced worldly pleasures and became a monk. After 12 years of penance he conquered his mind to attain spiritual supremacy. Lion was the symbol of Mahavira. He gave his first sermon in Pava.

There are 24 great Jain teachers known as Tirthakaras. They first attained Moksha and enlightenment and preached the way to attain the same to others.

Mahavira was the last Tirthakara. The word Jain evolved from Jina or Jaina, meaning ‘conqueror’. Every Tirthankara had a symbol. Jains believe in the re-birth of the soul. This means the soul is born again in another body. The role of conduct for a good life is truthfulness, not stealing, not being possessive, non-violence and chastity. The 5 doctrines of Jainism are Ahimsa - Non-violence, Satya - Truth, Astya - Don’t steal, Aparigraha - Avoid acquiring worldly things and Brahmachariya - Living a chaste life. Jains believe that the universe with its entities is eternal. No one is needed to manage the universe, which is guided by cosmic laws. For Jains, God is any perfect being who has overcome all karmas and is a liberated soul with infinite knowledge and power. Hence every living being can be a God in Jain Religion. There are 10 million Jains around the world.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																									
ஆவணி 15 31					ஆடி 16 1 St. Alphonsus Liguori	2																									
3	4 St. John Mary Vianney	5 Ded. of St. Mary Major Basilica	6 Transfiguration of the Lord	7	8 St. Dominic	9 Raksha Bandhan																									
10	11 St. Clare	12 International Youth Day	13	14 St. Maximilian Kolbe	15 Independence Day Assumption of Bl. Virgin Mary	16 ஆடி 31 Krishna Jayanthi																									
ஆவணி 1 17	18	19	20 St. Bernard	21	22 Queenship of Bl. Virgin Mary	23 St. Rose of Lima																									
24 St. Bartholomew, the Apostle	25	26	27 Vinayakar Chathurthi St. Monica	28 St. Augustine of Hippo	29 Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist	30 St. Euphrasia Eluvathingal																									
Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M									
JULY 2025	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
SEPTEMBER 2025	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	






OCEAN BOUND RIVERS...

SEPTEMBER 2025

HINDUISM

According to many scholars, Hinduism is the world’s oldest religion, with roots and customs dating back more than 4,000 years. Today, with more than 1 billion followers, Hinduism is the third-largest religion worldwide after Christianity and Islam. Roughly 94% of the world’s Hindus live in India. Hinduism has no specific founder. Hinduism is not a single religion but a compilation of many traditions and philosophies. Its origins are often traced to the Indus Valley Civilization ( circa 2500-1500 BCE) and the Vedic period (around 1500-500 BCE), when the Vedas were composed. Today there are four major sects of Hinduism: Shaivism, Vaishnava, Shaktism and Smarta, as well as a number of smaller sects with their own religious practices. The primary sacred texts, known as the Vedas, were composed around 1500 BC. Vedas are written in Sanskrit and contain revelations received by ancient saints and sages. The Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, 18 Puranas, Ramayana and Mahabharata are also important texts in Hinduism. The great epics, the Mahabharata and the

Ramayana, as well as the Puranas, contain expanded Hindu mythology and narrate stories of gods, heroes, and morals that remain central to Hinduism today. Some of the most prominent deities of Hinduism are Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva, Devi, Krishna, Lakshmi, Saraswathi ... All these gods worshiped are manifestations of the one Brahman. Hindu cosmology divides time into cycles called yugas: Satya Yuga, Treta Yuga, Dvapara Yuga, and Kali Yuga. Accordingly we are currently in the Kali Yuga, an age of decline that will eventually give way to a new cycle. Key principles of Hinduism include, divinity of the Vedas, belief in one Supreme Reality, cyclical nature of time, Karma and reincarnation. The important Hindu pilgrimage centres are: Himalayas, Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, Yamunotri, Varanasi, Haridwar-Rishikesh, Mathura-Vrindavan, Ayodhya, Shirdi, Nashik, Rameswaram, Madurai, Kumbakonam, Palani, Samayapuram, Sabarimala, and Tirupati.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	ஆவணி 16 1	2	3 St. Gregory the Great	4	Milad-un-Nabi / Teacher's Day Onam  5  St.Mother Teresa of Kolkata	6
7	8 Nativity of Bl. Virgin Mary	9 St. Peter Claver	10	11	 12 Holy Name of Mary	13 St. John Chrysostom
14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross	15 Our Lady of Sorrows	ஆவணி 31 16 Sts. Cornelius & Cyprian	புரட்டாசி 1 17 St. Robert Bellarmine	18	19 St. Januarius	20
International Day of Peace 21 St. Mathew, the Apostle	22	23 St. Padre Pio	24 Our Lady of Ransom	25	26 Sts. Cosmos & Damian	27 St. Vincent de Paul
28	29 Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Archangels	புரட்டாசி 14 30 St. Jerome				
	Su M T W T F Sa	Su M T W T F Sa	Su M T W T F Sa	Su M T W T F Sa	Su M T W T F Sa	Su M T W T F Sa
AUGUST 2025	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					
OCTOBER 2025	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					



OCEAN BOUND RIVERS...

OCTOBER 2025

SIKHISM

Sikhism is the world’s fifth-largest religion. The word ‘Sikh’ means ‘learner’ or ‘seeker of truth’. Sikhism advocates equality, social justice, service to humanity, and tolerance for other religions. The essential message of Sikhism is spiritual devotion and reverence of God while practicing the ideals of honesty, compassion, humility and generosity in everyday life. The Sikh religion is one of the youngest world religions and was founded in 1469 in Punjab by Guru Nanak Dev Ji, in response to a spiritual revelation. Nanak was born into a Hindu family but rejected many traditional religious practices such as the caste system. He sought a direct connection with God, advocating a personal relationship with the divine. Nanak and his nine successors are known as ‘gurus’. He taught that true religion consists of always being mindful of God and meditating on the attributes of God. Guru Nanak’s followers became known as Sikhs meaning Shishysa, which means disciple. Their place of worship is called Gurdwara. After Guru

Nanak, Sikhism was further developed by nine successive Gurus, who established key practices and institutions. GuruArjanDev compiled the Adi Granth, the first version of the Sikh Holy Scripture, and built the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Under Mughal rule, Sikhs faced persecution, which led to the militarization of the community. The Holy Book, the “Guru Granth Sahib”, is the ultimate spiritual authority for Sikhs. It contains the teachings and devotional compositions written and recorded by the Sikh Gurus and some contemporary Hindu and Muslim saints. Teachings of Guru Nanak: 1) Oneness of God: God is formless, eternal, and omnipresent 2) Equality: All people are equal 3) Selfless service 4) Reject idol worship and rituals 5) Live honestly and stay spiritually mindful. Sikhs believe that reincarnation is for those who do not attain attachment to God during the human life cycle. Sikhism has significantly influenced the cultures and societies, particularly in the Indian subcontinent. Their distinct identities are turban and beard.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																													
			புரட்டாசி 15 Ayutha Pooja 1 St.Theresa of Child Jesus	Gandhi Jayanthi   Vijaya Dasami  2 The Guardian Angels	3	4  St.Francis of Assisi																													
5 St. Faustina of the Bl. Sacrament	6	Maharishi Valmiki Jayanthi 7 Our Lady of the Rosary	8	9	10	11 St.John XXIII																													
12	13	14	15 St.Teresa of Avila	16	புரட்டாசி 31 17 St.Ignatius of Antioch	ஐப்பசி 1 18 St.Luke, the Evangelist																													
19	20 Diwali  St.Paul of the Cross	21	22 St.John Paul II	23	24 St.Anthony Mary Claret	25																													
26	27	28 Sts.Simon & Jude, Apostles	29	30	ஐப்பசி 14 31																														
	Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M					
SEPTEMBER 2025	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					
NOVEMBER 2025						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30



OCEAN BOUND RIVERS...

NOVEMBER 2025

ZOROASTRIANISM

Zoroastrianism is one of the world’s oldest monotheistic religions. It was founded by the Prophet Zoroaster (or Zarathustra) in ancient Iran nearly 3500 years ago. It was the official religion of Persia (Iran) from 600 BCE to 650 CE. Zoroastrian refugees, called Parsis, escaped Muslim persecution in Iran by emigrating to India. It is now one of the world’s smallest religions. There are only around 190,000 followers worldwide. Zoroastrians believe there is only one God called Ahura Mazda (Wise Lord) who created the world. For them fire represents God’s light or wisdom. Zoroastrians traditionally pray several times a day. They worship communally in a Fire Temple or Agiary where an eternal flame burns continuously. The cypress tree is a symbol of eternal life. The Zoroastrian Holy Scripture is called ‘The Avesta’ which included the Gathas with seventeen hymns thought to be composed by Zoroaster himself. The Younger Avesta contains

commentaries to older Avestan and it also contains myths, stories and details. Two groups of Zoroastrianism are the Iranians and the Parsis. It is believed that Zoroastrianism influenced the development of the Abrahamic religions Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Zoroastrianism has several key symbols, including the Faravahar, depicting a bearded man with one hand reaching forward, standing above a pair of wings and a circle representing eternity. Fire and water are important symbols, representing light, warmth, and purification. Zoroastrians traditionally used sky burials in dakhmas (towers of silence), where the deceased body is exposed to the elements and vultures. For Zoroastrians, the humans are the caretakers of the earth and should maintain its purity and protect its elements - earth, water, fire, and air. The key ethical teachings of Zoroastrianism are embodied in the maxim ‘Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds’.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
கார்த்திகை 14 30 1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Advent						ஜப்பசி 15 1 All Saints Day
2 All Souls Day	3	4 St.Charles Borromeo	5 Guru Nanak Jayanthi	6	7	8
9 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	10 St.Leo the Great	11 St.Martin of Tours	12 St.Josephat	13	14 Children’s Day	15
ஜப்பசி 30 16	கார்த்திகை 1 17	18 Dedication of the Churches of Sts.Peter & Paul	19	20 Universal Children’s Day	21 Presentation of the of the Blessed Virgin Mary	22 St.Cecilia
23 Christ the King	24	25 St.Catherine of Alexandria	26	27	28	29
Su M T W T F Sa Su M T W T F Sa Su M T W T F Sa Su M T W T F Sa Su M						
OCTOBER 2025	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					
DECEMBER 2025	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					







OCEAN BOUND RIVERS...

DECEMBER 2025

CHRISTIANITY

Christianity is the most widely practiced religion in the world with more than 2 billion followers, having its history dating back to the pre-historic times, when God created the universe and subsequently the first man and woman. Christians believe that God is omnipotent, timeless and the creator of the universe with all that are therein. Today its faith is centred around the ‘Christ event’ some 2000 years ago in Palestine. It was the culmination of all the prophecies, predicting the arrival of Messiah. The birth of Jesus Christ, in time through the power of the Holy Spirit from the Blessed Virgin Mary, made Him both divine and human. From the ‘Christ event’, the Christian belief is more focussed on the birth, life, mission, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the only son of God. The Triune nature of God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) was manifested in the life of Christ. Jesus gathered 12 disciples around him and healed the sick, raised the dead and fed the hungry. His preaching and mission were based on the love of God and love of the neighbour. He forgave his enemies and murderers, even on the cross as he was dying. He rose from the dead on the third day and

ascended back to his Father. After his death and resurrection, inspired by his life and preaching, many more flocked around his disciples and proclaimed his message all over the world, inspite of deadly persecutions. Later they came to be known as Christians. St.Paul, a Jew, one of the early converts due to a vision, was the most eloquent and outstanding among the Apostles and disciples. The life, death, resurrection, Pentecost and all the events of the early Church were recorded by his disciples, many years after his death, as Gospels, epistles, etc ... Christian Holy Scripture, ‘The Bible’ has two parts - Old Testament (BCE) and New Testament (CE). The Supreme head of the Church is the Pope, seated in Rome. In the 11th Century, the Eastern Orthodox Church questioned the authority of the Pope resulting in a split. In the 16th Century, King Henry VIII established in England, an independent ‘Anglican Church’. Later Martin Luther, a German monk started a process of reformation resulting in the formation of Protestants.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																															
	கார்த்திகை 15 World AIDS Day 1	2	3 St.Francis Xavier	Karthikai Deepam 4	5	6 St.Nicholas																															
7	8  The Immaculate Conception	9	10 Human Rights Day	11	 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe	13 St.Lucy																															
14	கார்த்திகை 29 15	மார்கழி 1 16	17	International Migrants Day 18	19	20																															
21	22	23	24	 25 Christmas	26 St.Stephen	27 St.John, the Apostle																															
Death of Fr.Gabriel Deshayes  28  Holy Family	29	30	மார்கழி 16 31																																		
	Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su	M							
NOVEMBER 2025							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
JANUARY 2026							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31