

# November

## 2 Nov (Tuesday) Anniversary of the Crowning of Haile Selassie – Rastafari

- One of the holiest days of the Rastafarian year
- It celebrates Haile Selassie's accession to the Ethiopian throne.
- It cements the role Ethiopia plays at the heart of Rastafarian tradition.



## 4 Nov (Thursday) Diwali – Hindi/Sikhs/Jains

- Diwali is the five-day Festival of Lights, celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world.
- It is a festival of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness.
- Fireworks are set off and light are hung out during the festival.
- It is generally associated with Lakshmi, goddess of wealth and prosperity, or with the victorious return of Rama and Sita after their exile.
- Diwali marks the beginning of the Indian financial year.

## 14 Nov (Sunday) Remembrance Sunday – National

- Remembrance Sunday is a national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life.
- We remember the Armed Forces, and their families, from Britain and the Commonwealth, the vital role played by the emergency services and those that have lost their lives as a result of conflict or terrorism.
- HM The Queen will pay tribute alongside Members of the Cabinet, Opposition Party leaders, former Prime Ministers, the Mayor of London and other ministers.



## 28 Nov (Sunday) Advent Sunday – Christianity

- The start of the Christian year and the fourth Sunday before Christmas.
- Advent means 'Coming' in Latin. This is the coming of Jesus into the world.
- Christians use the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas.
- It is often celebrated by lighting the first candle in the advent crown – a circular wreath of greenery.
- A further three candles are lit on subsequent Sundays, culminating with the Christmas candle on the 25th December. This signifies the transition from darkness to light.



## 29 Nov – 6 Dec (Mon-Mon) Hanukkah – Jews

- The eight-day celebration known as Hanukkah commemorates the reclaiming of the Second Temple in Jerusalem after, according to legend, the Jews rose up against their Greek-Syrian oppressors in the Maccabean Revolt.
- For the eight evenings of the festival, candles are lit from right to left in a *hanukkiyah*.
- Foods cooked with oil - such as doughnuts and *latkes* (potato cakes) – are traditional to remember the miracle with oil that happened at this time.

