

# *Spiritual Riches*

Bidding prayers for religions on their major festivals

**Ridván**

# Ridván

## Bahá'í Faith

The Bahá'í festival of Ridván is celebrated from sunset to sunset. Ridván means 'Paradise' in Arabic. It is the most important of the Bahá'í holy days and, according to Bahá'í teaching is the day on which Bahá'u'lláh declared His mission as a Manifestation of God.

### ***Bidding Prayer***

During the festival of Ridván, which celebrates the founding of the Bahá'í faith, we pray for the Bahá'ís in our towns and regions. We also pray for everyone suffering from prejudice and discrimination. May it be universally recognised that the connection between all people, created by the same God, is stronger than any division.

### ***For Newsletters***

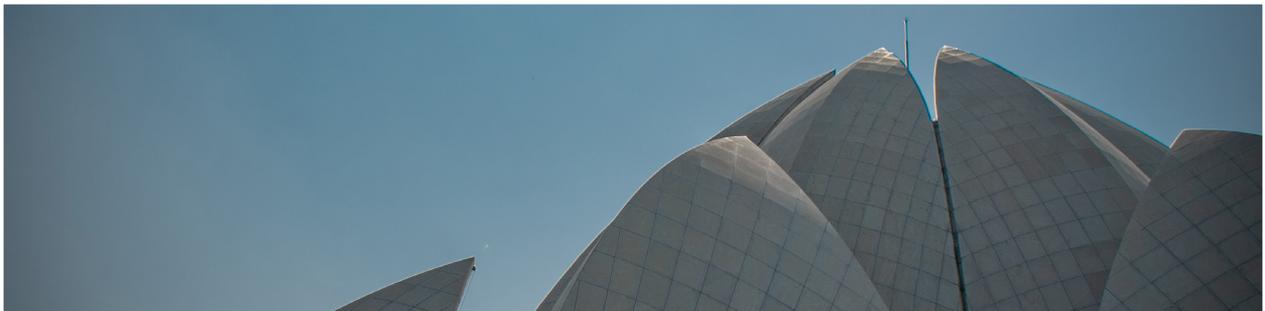
Bahá'ís believe in one God revealed throughout history, by figures such as Jesus, Mohammad and Moses. Ridván celebrates the Bahá'u'lláh's (pronounced Ba-haa-ol-laa) announcement of his prophethood in 1863. During his stay in a garden outside Baghdad, which Ridván also commemorates, he preached the core values in which Bahá'ís believe: the unity of mankind and justice for all.

### ***Background***

Followers of the Bahá'í faith believe that Bahá'u'lláh (pronounced Ba-haa-ol-laa) was

the latest in a line of successive manifestations of God throughout history – among them Jesus, Mohammad and Moses. His teaching centres on the unity of mankind and on justice for all, and Bahá'ís work towards this goal, organising themselves into local spiritual assemblies, and electing national and international representatives democratically. The festival of Ridván celebrates Bahá'u'lláh's announcement of his prophethood – Bahá'u'lláh literally means 'Glory of God'.

The twelve days of Ridván mirror the twelve days that Bahá'u'lláh spent in a garden before his departure from Baghdad in 1863, receiving visitors while preparations for his exile in Constantinople were being made. The name that he gave the garden, and that in turn gave its name to the festival, means 'paradise'. For Bahá'ís, Bahá'u'lláh's revelation of himself as a prophet fulfils the promise made by Siyyid 'Alí Muhammad Shírází, the Báb (Gate), in 1844 that the arrival of God's messenger was imminent, and that he himself had come to prepare the world for his arrival. The first, ninth and twelfth days of Ridván mark Bahá'u'lláh's entrance into the garden, the day his family joined him, and the day that he left the garden, and Bahá'ís will normally mark them with days of rest and celebration.



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*These leaflets offer suggestions for bidding prayers at the major festivals of non-Christian religions, along with a short text of explanation for use in parish newsletters, and some background information. In acknowledging these festivals, and praying for those who celebrate them, Catholics can express their connectedness to all people of faith, as well as the respect which the Church holds for their spiritual wealth.*