Spiritual Riches

Bidding prayers for religions on their major festivals

Jamsheedi Nowruz

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Zoroastrianism

The Zoroastrian festival of Jamsheedi Nowruz celebrates spring, and the Persian New Year. Nowruz begins at the spring equinox, when the sun crosses the equator and day and night are equal length.

Bidding Prayer

We pray for the Zoroastrian community in our country as they celebrate Jamsheedi Nowruz (pronounced Jaam-sheed-e No-Rooz). We ask that they may be filled with hope and joy at the beginning of spring, and of their new year, and pray for all who are facing new beginnings this week.

For Newsletters

The core tenant of the ancient religion of Zoroastrianism, which originated in Persia in 1500 BC, is that everyone is capable of contributing to the victory of good over evil by "good thoughts, good words, good deeds".

Zoroastrians believe in one God, Ahura Mazda, who created all that is good in the world.

Background

The Zoroastrian religion is an ancient one, and many of the terms that we know from the Bible originate from Persia, where Zoroaster founded the religion around 1500 BC. Zoroastrians believe that, by "good thoughts, good words, good deeds", they contribute to the eventual victory of good over evil.

There are around 5,000 Zoroastrians in the UK. The majority have roots in Iran and India. At the spring equinox, Nowruz (literally, 'new day') is a celebration which was established by King Jamsheed, marking the beginning of the new year in the Persian calendar, which is welcomed by a spring clean, wearing new clothes, painting eggs, and visiting friends and family.

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.