

What is a rite of passage?

An official ceremony or informal activity that marks an important stage or occasion in a person's life

Baptism

Infant Baptism: the ritual through which babies and young children become members of the Church.

Believer's baptism: initiation into the Church, by immersion in water, of people old enough to understand the ceremony/ rite and willing to live a Christian life

Why are people baptised?

- Welcomes Christians into the faith
- Follow in the footsteps of Jesus
- Washes away sins
- Parents decision



Infant	Believer's
Godparents and parents promise to bring up the child in the Christian faith	Involves full immersion in a pool, symbolising the cleansing from sin and the rising up to new life with Christ.
Water is poured over the head of the baby by the priest or minister.	Believer must be old enough to have come to a mature decision about their faith.
Parents are able to thank God for their baby and celebrate the birth with family and friends.	Each person may read a Bible passage and give a brief testimony of their faith in Jesus as their personal saviour.

Key quote

“And now, what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name” Acts 22:16 → encourages Christians to join the Church and be baptised. It also teaches them that baptism washes away their sins and reminds them of Jesus.

What is a bar and bat mitzvah?

Bar Mitzvah: coming of age ceremony for boys at the age of 13

Bat Mitzvah: coming of age ceremony for girls at the age of 12

Circumcision: removal of the foreskin

How do they celebrate?

- Throwing sweets at the end of a ceremony to represent blessings
- Share a big meal with family and friends
- They receive presents



Bat Mitzvah	Bar Mitzvah
The ceremony involves a reading of Eishet Chayil.	The ceremony involves a reading from the Torah, usually in Hebrew.
Takes place at the age of 12. Bat Mitzvah means 'daughter of the commandments'.	This is the name of the ceremony for boys.
This is the name of the ceremony for girls.	Takes place at the age of 13. Bar Mitzvah means 'son of the commandments'.

The Khalsa



Amrit: Special mixture of sugar and water

Amrit ceremony: Ceremony in which people become members of the Khalsa

Panj Piare: 'beloved ones' – first members of the Khalsa

The Khalsa refers to the group of initiated Sikhs who have dedicated their life to their religion

Where did it originate?

At the festival of Vaisakhi, Guru Gobin Singh asked who was willing to sacrifice their lives for God. Five men stepped forward and became the 5 beloved ones, the first members of the Khalsa

When females become part of the Khalsa, they take on the surname Kaur, which means princess

When males become part of the Khalsa, they take on the surname Singh, which means lion

The Aqiqah ceremony



Aqiqah: Naming ceremony

Tahnik: Sweet taste in mouth

Adhan: Call to prayer

What happens when a Muslim baby is born?

1. The Adhan (call to prayer) is said in the baby's right ear as soon as the baby is born
2. God is great is also repeated 4 times in the baby's ear
3. Then something sweet is put in the babies mouth in the hope that they will grow up to be sweet and kind
4. The Aqiqah ceremony takes place when the baby is seven days old
5. Family and friends gather to celebrate the birth of the baby and the couple announce the name of the child at the ceremony.
6. During the ceremony, the baby's head is shaved and weighed and the value in gold is given to the Poor.

The Ordination ceremony

Ordination: ceremony in which a person becomes a monk
Ritual: usual 'pattern' for ceremonies



Bhikku

Once a Buddhist is ordained, they become a Bhikku

Typical day for a Bhikku

- Awake at 5:30am, puja (worship) starts at 6am
- They then complete any chores they may have
- Their last meal is around midday and they then do not eat anything else. They dedicate a lot of time to meditating.

Possessions a Buddhist monk owns:

- Razor - robes - alms bowl - water filter - needle and thread - belt

When a Buddhist monk joins the monastery they leave behind:

- friends/family/money/possessions

Important ceremonies for young Hindus



Samskars: ceremonies of life

Karma: the actions which affect rebirth

Naming ceremony:

- Usually takes place when a baby is twelve days old.
- Choosing the name is very important, because the right name will bring the child good luck.
- Prayers are read in Sanskrit and the name is given to the baby based on where they are born and the precise time and date of the birth.

Head shaving ceremony:

- For a boy, this means having his whole head shaved.
- It is a symbol of removing any bad karma from his previous life and cleanses the soul.

Sacred Thread ceremony:

- This usually takes place between a boy's seventh and twelfth birthday.
- The thread is hung over the left shoulder, so that it hangs down to the right hip.
- Once he has been given this thread, the boy is considered an adult. He can read the Vedas and carry out religious duties.
- The sacred thread ceremony is the time when a boy joins the religion. As he is considered an adult, it is said that the boy who has become a man, will be treated with respect.