



Diversity Calendar

February 2021

Date	Religion/Culture	Event
Feb 1 st	American	National Freedom Day In 1865, Abraham Lincoln signed the 13 th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which outlawed slavery. In commemoration of the signing, Richard Write, a former slave, founded National Freedom Day.
Feb 2 nd	Christian	Candlemas This is a catholic holiday, celebrating the presentation of Jesus; Jesus' first entry into the temple and Virgin Mary's purification. A candle lit procession leads the mass in many Churches around the world. Celebratory customs vary, depending on location. For example, after prayer in France, it is traditional to eat crepes, and whilst making the crepes, the cook often holds a coin, believed to assure wealth and happiness.
Feb 3 rd	Japanese	Setsubun-Sai (Beginning of Spring) This is a holiday celebrated to acknowledge the beginning of spring in Japan. Some customs include dressing up as ogres or devils and playing games.
Feb 12 th	Chinese	Chinese New Year One of the most sacred of all traditional Chinese holidays, is the Lunar New Year. It is celebrated by family get-together, whilst enjoying elaborate dinners and decorations. The Lunar New Year is also celebrated at this time in Japan, Korea, Vietnam and Mongolia.
Feb 12-14 th	Buddhist	Losar The Tibetan Buddhist New Year. The holiday, based on the Lunar calendar and is a time of renewal through spiritual practices and rituals of gratitude.
Feb 14 th	Western Christian	St. Valentine's Day A Western Christian holiday honouring the martyrdom of at least 3 saints by the name Valentine, or Valentinus. Typically associated with romantic love and celebrated by people expressing their love via gifts, St. Valentine's day was recognized as a day of romance, in the 14 th century.
Feb 16 th	Hinduism	Vasant Panchami The Hindu festival celebrating the coming of spring. On this day Hindus worship Saraswati Devi, the goddess of wisdom. Often, students will place their pens and notebooks by the goddess's feet for blessings. Traditional dresses are worn in bright yellow colours, before joining festivities.
Feb 16 th	Catholicism	Mardi Gras/Shrove Tuesday The last day for Catholics to indulge before Ash Wednesday.

		Mardi Gras is famously celebrated around world with street parades and festivals, by dressing in costumes and wearing decorative masks. Perhaps the most famous parades are those in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Venice, Italy.
Feb 17 th	Christian	Ash Wednesday Marking the first day of Lent on the Christian calendar. Lent is a practice in fasting for 40 days, abstaining from meats and fish and other luxury foods. Easter marks the end of Lent.
Feb 25 th – 26 th	Judaism	Purim A Jewish celebration, marking a time during 5 th century BC, when the Jewish communities were saved from genocide. On Purim, Jewish communities offer charity and share food with friends.
Feb 26 th	Chinese	Lantern Festival This is the first significant holiday, marking the last day of the Chinese New Year celebrations. Beautiful and decorative Chinese lanterns illuminate the sky during the night of the event.
Feb 27 th	Hinduism	Maghi-Purnima Magha is the name of this month in the Hindu culture. It is the month of good deeds and charity. Maghi-Purnima is a Hindu festival in worship of Lord Vishnu. Millions of devotees take a holy bath on this day and carry out charity work to end this special month.

Above are the main multicultural celebrations for the month of February, 2021. There may be some celebrations, which have not been included in this calendar and customs may vary. If you would like me to add your special holiday or vary the customs, please write me at afsana@gcmediation.com.