



Celebrating the Year

The Celtic Wheel of the Year serves as a calendar system intricately tied to the shifting seasons and agricultural rhythms and, provides an excellent framework to observe a regular ceremonial practice.

Samhain - October 31 / November 1

Marks the Celtic New Year and the end of the harvest season. It is a time when the veil between the physical and spirit worlds is believed to be thin.

- Ancestors are honoured, and rituals are performed to remember and connect with those who have passed away.

Yule - **Winter Solstice** (around December 21)

Celebrates the rebirth of the sun as the days begin to lengthen after the longest night of the year.

- Lighting candles, decorating trees, and exchanging gifts are common customs. Rituals focus on the return of light and the hopes for the future.

Imbolc - February 1/2

The halfway point between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. It represents the early signs of spring and the stirring of life beneath the surface.

- Dedication to Brigid, the Celtic goddess associated with healing, poetry, and smithcraft. Imbolc is a time for purification, renewal, and the initiation of new projects.

Ostara - **Spring Equinox** (around March 21)

Celebrates the balance of day and night and the arrival of spring. It is a time of fertility, growth, and new beginnings.

- Planting seeds, colouring eggs, and celebrating the Earth's renewal. Activities

focus on embracing the energy of the emerging season.

Beltane - May 1

The beginning of the warmer season and is associated with fertility, fire, and the union of the god and goddess.

- Maypole dancing, bonfires, and rituals celebrating fertility and the beauty of nature. It is a time for love, passion, and the flourishing of life.

Litha - **Summer Solstice** (around June 21)

The longest day of the year and the peak of the sun's power. It is a time of abundance, growth, and the fullness of life.

- Bonfires, feasting, and rituals to honour the sun's energy. People celebrate the beauty of the natural world and express gratitude for the abundance surrounding them.

Lammas - August 1

The beginning of the harvest season. It is associated with the Celtic god Lugh and the first fruits of the earth.

- Feasting, games, and competitions. Harvest rituals, including the making of corn dollies and offering the first fruits to the deities, are common.

Mabon - **Autumn Equinox** (around September 21)

The second harvest and the balance of day and night. It is a time of reflection, gratitude, and preparation for the darker half of the year.

- Making offerings to the earth and acknowledging the interconnectedness of all things