

CHANUKAH BRIEFING



Starts sunset Thursday 7th December
and ends Friday 15th December 2023

Y R O T S I H

- Chanukah, which is Hebrew for dedication, is the Festival of Lights.
- Chanukah commemorates the liberation of the Jewish people from the tyrannical rule of the Seleucid King Antiochus IV.
- Antiochus banned all Jewish religious practice and education and ransacked the Jewish temple in Jerusalem.
- The Maccabees, a zealous band of brothers inspired others to wage a guerrilla war against the Seleucids so that Jewish people could practice their faith freely.
- The Maccabees purified the Temple in Jerusalem and through a miracle found one undamaged bottle of olive oil to light the Menorah (7 lamp candelabra) which instead of lasting for 1 day, lasted for 8 days.
- In more modern times the festival has been a time to celebrate difference, address issues of sustainability, and offer hope to marginalised or oppressed groups through the story of a small minority overcoming persecution.



RIITUAL

- Lighting of a 9-lamp candelabra called a Chanukiah. We use the central candle (called the Shamash) to light one candle on night one and then an additional candle each night for eight nights.
- Eating oily foods especially doughnuts and latkes (like hash browns) to remember the oil that lasted eight days.
- Playing with a spinning toy called a dreidel. Players use chocolate coins to win or lose coins from other players.
- Singing of songs including 'Ma'oz Tzur', 'Sevivon Sov Sov Sov', 'I had a little dreidel' as well as more modern takes such as songs from the Maccabeats
- Giving of gifts and Tzedekah (charity), particularly to children.



Social SOS

Here are our suggestions of what to post on social media:

- 'Happy Chanukah'
- 'Chanukah Sameach!' (meaning Happy Chanukah)
- 'Happy Chanukah to all those celebrating. Enjoy lighting the candles and eating as many doughnuts as you can!'
- 'Happy Chanukah- wishing everyone well during this festival of lights!'
- You could also include the Chanukah emoji 🕯️

Please follow [@jlc_uk](#) on Twitter and [@jlc.uk](#) on Instagram to see content from the JLC, our members and Jewish communities across the country during all the nights of Chanukah.





The JLC connects and coordinates the Jewish charitable sector, strengthens and supports leadership across our community, and magnifies and amplifies the collective voice of our member organisations. To find out more about our members go to www.thejlc.org/mermebers

Contact the JLC:

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If you would like to find out more about the festival of Chanukah visit My Jewish Learning's [educational resource](#).

Website: www.thejlc.org



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