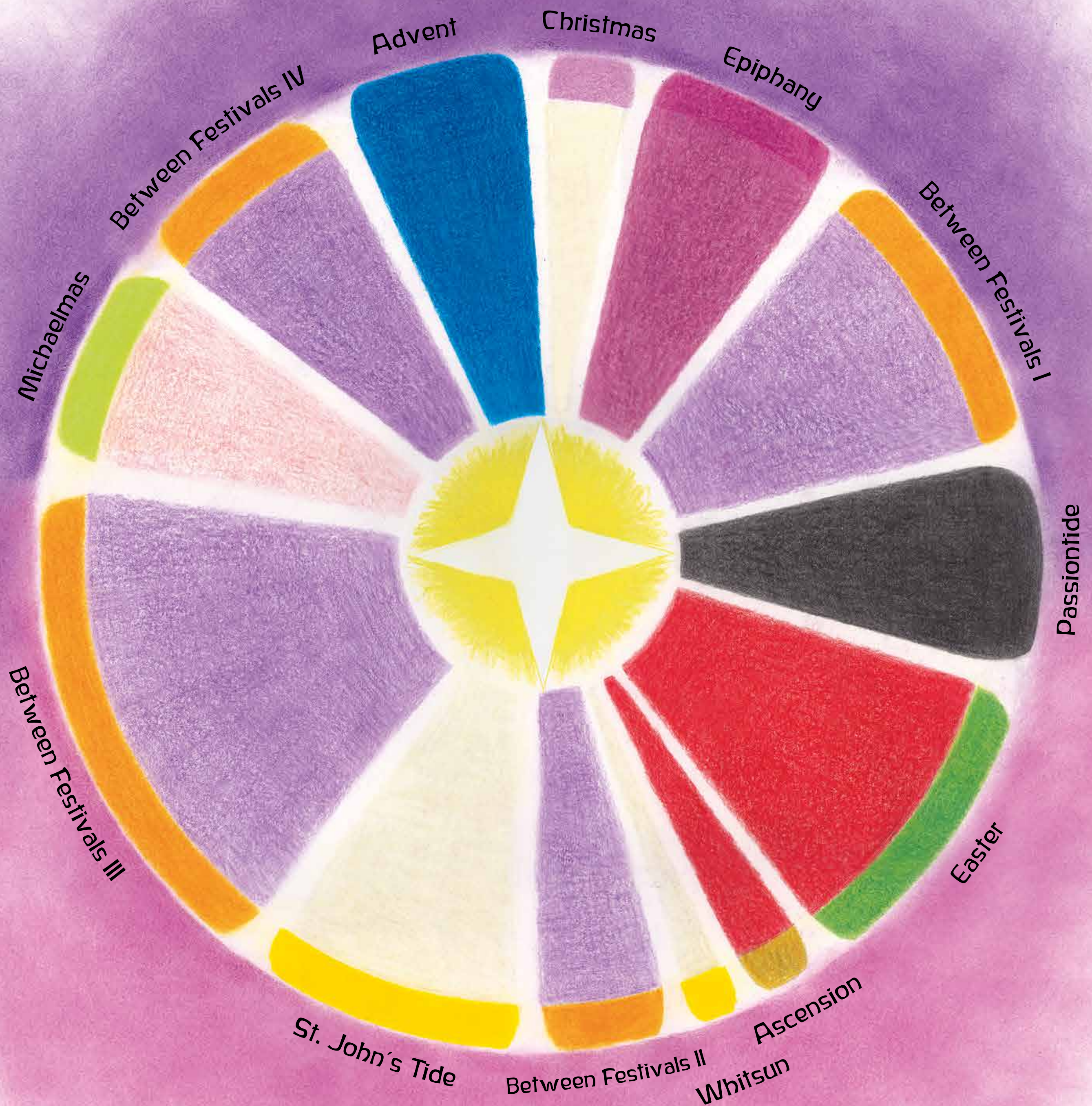


The Christian Festival Year



Advent begins on Advent Sunday, four Sundays before the 25th December. The length of the Advent festival period varies depending on which day of the week Christmas day falls. The colour is blue.

Christmas The Christmas festival, or The Twelve Holy Nights, lasts for twelve days from the 25th December up to and including the 5th January. The colours are white and mauve.

Epiphany begins on the 6th January, the day of the Baptism in the Jordan, and the day of the visitation of the 3 Kings. It then continues through the following four Sundays and the weekdays that follow them. If the 6th January falls on a Sunday then Epiphany would run for a further three Sundays and weekdays that follow them. The colour is a deep magenta.

Between festivals I begins on the 5th Sunday after the 6th January and runs until the day before the first Sunday of Passiontide. The length of this period varies considerably depending when Easter falls. The colours are lilac and amber.

Passiontide begins on the fourth Sunday before Easter Sunday and runs up until Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday. The colour is black.

Easter begins on Easter Sunday which is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring equinox and hence shifts its date from year to year. It then runs for thirty-nine days which include the following five Sundays and ends the day before Ascension Thursday. The colours are blood red and grass green.

Ascension begins on Ascension Day which is forty days after Easter Sunday and is hence always a Thursday. It then runs for ten days until the day before Whit Sunday. It therefore includes just one Sunday. The colours are blood red and gold.

Whitsun begins on the fiftieth day (Pentecost) after Easter Sunday and runs for three days. These three days are also referred to as Whit Sunday, Whit Monday and Whit Tuesday.

Between Festivals II begins on a Wednesday, the day after Whit Tuesday, and runs until the day before St. John's Day. The length of this period varies considerably depending on when Easter Sunday falls. The colours are lilac and amber.

St. John's Tide begins with St. John's Day on the 24th June and runs for a further 4 Sundays and their following weekdays. If the 24th June falls on a Sunday then the St. John's Tide would run for a further three Sundays and their following weekdays. The colours are white and yellow.

Between Festivals III begins on the Sunday after St. John's Tide and lasts for ten Sundays and their following weekdays. The colours are Lilac and Amber.

Michaelmas begins on Michaelmas Day the 29th September and includes the following four Sundays and the weekdays that follow them. If the 29th September falls on a Sunday then Michaelmas would run for a further three Sundays and their following weekdays. The colours are peach-blossom pink and pale green.

Between Festivals IV begins on the Sunday after Michaelmas and lasts until the day before Advent Sunday. The length of this period varies around four weeks in length depending on the weekdays for Michaelmas day and Advent Sunday.