

much more festive and Christmas-like in its character. Jewish children receive gifts for Hanukkah – often one for each of the eight nights of the holiday. Jewish parents may feel that by making Hanukkah extra special their children won't feel left out of all the Christmas festivities going on around them.

Widely-observed Hanukkah traditions include:

- Lighting the hanukkiyah (the special eight-branched menorah). Every year the miracle of the Hanukkah oil is commemorated by lighting candles on a hanukkiyah every night for eight nights.
- Spinning the dreidel: A popular game involving a four-sided top with Hebrew letters on each side. Gelt (chocolate coins) are an important part of this game for children.
- Eating fried foods: Because Hanukkah celebrates the miracle of oil, it is traditional to eat fried foods such as latkes and sufganiyot during the holiday. Latkes are pancakes made out of potatoes and onions, which are fried in oil and then served with applesauce. Sufganiyot (or "sufganiyah" if you can only manage just the one) are jelly-filled donuts fried and dusted with confectioners' sugar.

For the first time since 1888 (and the last time until the year 79,811 unless someone adjusts the calendar) the first day of the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah coincides with American Thanksgiving Day.

Hanukkah is a celebration of a modest little miracle, and I like that. We see modest little miracles every day, but don't call them miracles because we can't believe that God would be concerned with such trivialities.

While I accept that there is something wrong with the idea that God concerns himself with finding me a parking space while letting thousands die in a typhoon, I think we're in danger of missing the point. Every day (however mundane or extraordinary) has its modest little miracles: undeserved blessings; whether an unusually courteous driver who lets me out at the junction, or a friend who phones out of the blue - just when we really needed to hear from them.

Thanksgiving isn't just a Thursday in November (an American-themed preview of the Christmas blow-out with extra Pumpkin Pie), it should be a daily state of mind. When we're inclined towards giving thanks, we're more likely to be attuned to noticing those little things around us that are worth giving thanks for. Happy Thanksgivukkah - just don't eat too many of those fried, sugared jelly donuts with your pumpkin pie, though.

George Lane
Co-ordinating Chaplain

Hanukkah (or Chanukkah) is a Jewish holiday celebrated for eight days and nights. It starts on the 25th of the Jewish month of Kislev; in 2013, from the evening of Wednesday, November 27 to the evening of Thursday, December 5.

In Hebrew, "hanukkah" means "dedication," recalling the re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem in 165 B.C.

Three years earlier, the Temple had been seized by Syrian-Greek soldiers and dedicated to the worship of Zeus. A year later the Emperor Antiochus made the observance of the Jewish faith a capital offence. Greek soldiers forced the Jewish inhabitants to bow down to an idol and to eat the flesh of a pig – both practices that are forbidden to Jews. Led by Mattathias, a High Priest, and his family, the Jewish people succeeded in retaking their land from the occupying army. These rebels became known as the Maccabees, or Hasmoneans.

To purify the Temple it was necessary to burn ritual oil in the menorah (seven-branched lampstand) for eight days. To the dismay of the Jewish leaders, there was only one day's worth of oil left in the Temple. They lit the menorah anyway and to their surprise the small amount of oil lasted the full eight days.

This is the miracle of the Hanukkah oil that is celebrated every year when Jews light a special menorah known as a hanukkiyah for eight days. There are information stands in each of the three terminals provided by the Chabad-Lubavitch movement - a branch of Hasidic Judaism.

Because the Jewish calendar is based on the lunar month, each year the first day of Hanukkah falls on a different day – usually sometime between late November and late December. Because Jewish communities are often found in predominately Christian societies, over time Hanukkah has become

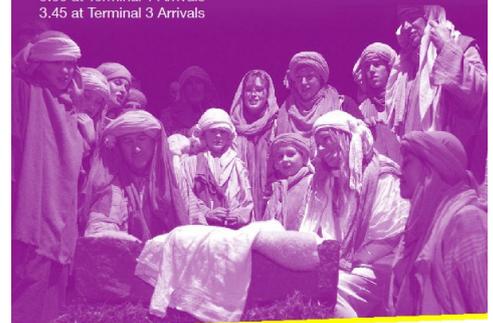
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Avis, Budget, Enterprise, National/Europcar, Hertz, Sixt
- **Taxi Cab Drivers and Arrow Cars**
- **Traffic Marshalls**
- **Bussing**
- **Car Parks**
- **Meet and Greet (Valet parking)**

Daily Prayers

(Christian) take place every day at 8.30am in Terminal 1 Prayer Room (and at many other times and places too)

Friday Jumma Prayers

(Islamic) are held in T3 Prayer Room 1300 GMT (Winter)

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