PASSOVER BRIEFING 2022

Starts nightfall Friday 15th April and ends Saturday 23rd April 2022

jewish leadership council
Pesach, or Passover celebrates Moses leading the Israelites (Jewish people) out from slavery in Egypt to freedom during the period of Exodus.

It is celebrated from 15th-23rd of April (15th-23rd of Nissan in the Hebrew calendar). On the first days of Pesach we remember how God took the Jewish people out of Egypt, following the last of the ten plagues- from slavery to freedom.

On the seventh day we remember the miracle of the Splitting of the Sea of Reeds which allowed the Israelites to escape the pursuing Pharoah and Egyptian chariots.

Since the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE, the focus of Passover shifted to the ritual meal, called the seder, which normally takes place at home.
THE TEN PLAGUES

One of the most dramatic moments of the Passover seder comes with the recitation of the 10 plagues that, the Torah says, God brought on the Egyptians to persuade Pharaoh to free the Israelites from slavery.

- Water to blood
- Frogs
- Lice
- Flies
- Death of livestock
- Boils
- Locusts
- Hail and Fire
- Darkness
- Death of the firstborn

THE SEDER PLATE

Karpas (a green vegetable, most often parsley) representing renewal and hope.

Haroset (sweet fruit paste) representing the mortar and brick used by the Hebrew slaves to build the storehouses or pyramids of Egypt.

Maror (bitter herb) symbolizing the bitterness and harshness of the slavery.

Zeroa (shank bone) symbolizing the ancient practice of the sacrifice of a lamb.

Beitzah (egg) symbolizes the hagigah sacrifice, which would be offered on every holiday (including Passover) when the Temple stood. The roundness of the egg also represents the cycle of life.
During the festival, the food reflects the major theme of Passover and is intended to help Jews relive God’s great redemptive act. Because the Israelites had no time to let their bread rise as they hurriedly left Egypt, Jewish law forbids eating (or even possessing) any food that contains leavened grains. Therefore, a major part of the preparations for Passover consists of removing all traces of leavened foods from the home and replacing them with unleavened foods. Many Jews also buy special kosher-for-Passover certified foods which they eat throughout the festival.

The central ritual of Passover is the seder, a carefully choreographed ritual meal that typically takes place in the home. A number of symbolic foods are laid out on the table, of which the most important is the matzah, the unleavened “bread of affliction – specifically referencing the bread that had no time to rise.” The seder follows a script laid out in the Haggadah, a book that tells the story of the redemption from Egypt. Although the Haggadah is a traditional text, many people add to it and revise it in accordance with their theology and understanding of God’s redemptive actions in the world.

The first and last day (or days in many communities) of Pesach are festivals where Jewish people do not work, much like a Shabbat. The middle ‘Chol Hamoed’ days Jewish people will work and live as normal, with the exception of the special diet restrictions of Passover.
Here are our suggestions of what to post on social media:

- Happy Pesach
- Chag Sameach! or Chag Pesach Sameach! (meaning Happy Passover)
- Chag Sameach to all those celebrating Passover! Please enjoy being together for your Seder and enjoy the Matzah!
- Chag Sameach - wishing you all a pleasant Passover and Seder night, full of joy and singing with family and friends.

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 Passover.
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. This includes the following synagogue denominational bodies:

Contact the JLC: adam@thejlc.org

If you would like to find out more about the festival of Passover visit My Jewish Learning’s educational resource.