

People who lead Worship





Buddhism

Very religious people in Buddhism sometimes become monks and nuns. A group of Buddhist monks and nuns is called a sangha.

A very special leader for Buddhists is the Dalai Lama. He is a special Buddhist monk.

The Dalai Lama encourages people to live in peace and harmony.



← Christianity — Roman Catholicism

Roman Catholicism is another branch of Christianity. The person who leads worship in a Roman Catholic Church is called a priest.

Only men can be priests in a Roman Catholic Church. A priest is called 'Father' to show that his job is to look after his congregation.

The Roman Catholic Church has a worldwide leader called the pope. He lives in a special place called the Vatican Palace, in Vatican City. Vatican City is the smallest country in the world.





Islam

Muslims worship in a mosque and the leader of the worship is called an imam.

Imams may lead Islamic worship services, serve as community leaders and provide religious guidance.

The imam helps Muslims learn more about Allah's (God's) teachings.

Imams will be present to lead at special ceremonies, such as funerals.





Judaism

Jewish people are led in their worship by a rabbi. Rabbi means 'teacher' in Hebrew.

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Rabbis conduct ceremonies, such as weddings and Bar Mitzvahs or Bat Mitzvahs. These are very special services when Jewish boys and girls become adults.

In some branches of Judaism, both men and women can be rabbis. In others, only a man can be a rabbi.





Sikhi

Sikhs worship in a special place called a gurdwara and their priest is called a granthi. There are no clergy in Sikhi but someone can become a granthi. The granthi reads the Guru Granth Sahib Ji, the Sikh holy book.

A granthi has to be a member of the Khalsa. A Sikh can become a Khalsa member when they are baptised in a special ceremony called an amrit ceremony.

Granthis help to give a baby their name. When a Sikh baby is born, the family will visit the gurdwara. The granthi reads from the Guru Granth Sahib Ji. The family choose a name that starts with the first letter of the first word the granthi said.



