

How does Greece, The Philippines and the UK celebrate Christmas?

Similarities:

- **Christmas Mass:** All three countries have church services to celebrate Jesus' birth.
- **Family Feasts:** Families gather for big meals with special foods.
- **Gift Giving:** People exchange gifts, though the timing varies.

Differences:

- **When Christmas Starts:**
 - **Greece:** Celebrations start on Christmas Eve and last until Epiphany (Jan 6).
 - **Philippines:** Christmas starts as early as September and lasts until Epiphany.
 - **UK:** Christmas is mostly celebrated on Dec 25.
- **Decorations:**
 - **Greece:** Christmas trees and **boats** (especially in coastal areas).
 - **Philippines:** **Parol** (star lanterns).
 - **UK:** Christmas trees and **fairy lights**.
- **Gift Givers:**
 - **Greece:** **Saint Basil** (Aghios Vassilis) brings gifts on Jan 1.
 - **Philippines:** **Santa Claus** brings gifts, but also **Saint Basil** on Jan 1.
 - **UK:** **Santa Claus** brings presents on Christmas Eve.
- **Unique Traditions:**
 - **Greece:** **Basil Cross** to ward off evil spirits.
 - **Philippines:** **Misa de Gallo** (early Masses) and **Noche Buena** (Christmas Eve feast).
 - **UK:** **Boxing Day** and **Christmas crackers**.

Summary:

All three countries celebrate Christmas with church services, family meals, and gift-giving, but each has its own special traditions and timing.