

RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL EVENTS FOR 2019

JAN	5 th January Birth of Guru Gobind Singh Ji 	6 th January Epiphany / Theophany Arrival of 3 wise men to baby Jesus. Also commemorates Jesus' baptism. 	7 th January Feast of the Nativity Eastern Orthodox Churches using the old Julian Calendar celebrate Christmas this day. 	14 th January Maghi Bravery of the 40 Immortal Ones who protected Guru Gobind Singh for freedom of religious belief. These men were blessed with Mukti (Liberation or Salvation). 	21 st -23 rd Jan Mahayana New Year 	26 th January Australia Day / Survival Day (public holiday) 	31 st January Birthday of Guru Har Rai Sahib Ji 	FEB	1 st -7 th February UN WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK UN resolution for worldwide week of harmony between people regardless of their faith.	5 th February Lunar New Year Year of the Pig (Chinese Zodiac) 	13 th February National Apology Day Recalling Australian government's 2008 apology to The Aboriginal Stolen Generations. 	15 th Feb Nirvana Day Death and final enlightenment (Parinirvana) of the Buddha. 	19 th February Magha Puja Commemorates the Buddha's visit to Veruvana Monastery. 	
	4 th March Maha Shivaratri Great festival of convergence of Shiva and Shakti. Also considered their wedding day. 	6 th March Ash Wednesday First day of Lent. 40 days of fasting and reflection leading up to Easter. 	11 th March Clean Monday Start of Orthodox Great Lent 	16 th March – 24 th March CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK			21 st March Purim Reading story from Scroll of Esther with celebrations of survival and gifts to others. 		21 st March UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Known in Australia as Harmony Day)	21 st March Naw Ruz (Baha'i New Year) Coinciding with Spring Equinox in the Northern hemisphere. 	21 st March Holi (Festival of Colours) Full moon days. Beginning of spring season in the tropics. 	21 st March Holi Mohalla Guru Gobind Singh started this annual gathering to practice military exercises and hold mock battles. 	3 rd April Isra and Mi'raj Night journey to Jerusalem. Ascension of the Prophet Muhammad. 	13 th – 16 th April Theravada New Year
APR (cont.)	14 th April Vaisakhi Creation of the Khalsa Panth (Sikh Nation, Brotherhood of the Pure), donning 5 articles of faith. 	17 th April Mahavir Jayanti 	17 th April Narasimha Jayanti Lord Narasimha is a reincarnation of Lord Vishnu, who appeared in the form of half lion and half man, to kill demon Hiranyakashyapu. 	18 th April Birthday of Guru Angad Dev Sahib Ji & Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji Celebrates the birthdays of the 2 nd and 9 th Guru. 	19 th April Hanuman Jayanti Birthday of Lord Hanuman, the reincarnation of Lord Shiva in the form of a Rudra. 	19 th April Good Friday Deliverance from slavery, exodus from Egypt. 	20 th – 27 th April Pesach (Passover) 	21 st April Easter 	21 st April Orthodox Palm Sunday 	22 nd April Lailat al Bara'ah Night of extra worship and forgiveness, followed by fasting the next day. 	21 st April First Day of Ridvan Marking Baha'u'llah's declaration of His mission as a Messenger of God. The most important holy day and start of the twelve-day Festival of Ridvan. 	25 th April Anzac Day 	26 th April Orthodox Good Friday 	28 th April Orthodox Easter (Pascha)
	29 th Apr Ninth Day of Ridvan 	2 nd May Twelfth Day of Ridvan 	2 nd May Yom HaShoah Remembering the Holocaust. 	6 th May Ramadan Begins Holy month of fasting. Revelation of the Qur'an to Prophet Mohammed. Prayers, spiritual and physical cleansing. 	18 th May Buddha Day / Vesak Day (UN) 	23 rd May Birthday of Guru Amar Das Sahib Ji Celebrates birthday of the 3 rd Guru of the Sikhs. He rendered selfless service, and took extensive steps to promote equality of women appointing them as missionaries. 	24 th May Declaration of the Báb Celebrates announcement of His Mission in 1844, by the Báb, Forerunner of Baha'u'llah. 	26 th /27 th May Laylat al Qadr Night of Destiny, the night when Angel Gabriel brought down the first verses of the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad. 	26 th May National Sorry Day Renewal of reconciliation efforts. 	27 th May – 3 rd June NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK Anniversaries of 1967 Referendum (May 27 th 1967) and landmark Mabo decision (3 rd June 1992) 			29 th May Ascension of Baha'u'llah Commemorates passing of Baha'u'llah, Prophet-Founder of the Baha'i Faith in 1892. 	
JUNE	5 th June Eid al-Fitr End of Ramadan, celebrated with a festive meal, charity and good deeds. 	9 th - 10 th June Shavuot Combined harvest festival and celebration of the gift of Torah. 	9 th June Pentecost Descent of Holy Spirit on Jesus Christ's disciples. 	16 th June Martyrdom of Sri Guru Arjan Dev Sahib Ji 5 th Guru of the Sikhs and 1 st Sikh martyr. Built Harmandir Sahib and compiled Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. 	16 th June Orthodox Pentecost Descent of Holy Spirit on Jesus Christ's disciples. 	17 th June Saka Dawa Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death. 	1 st July Coming of the Light Recognising the adoption of Christianity through Torres Strait Islander communities during the late 19 th Century. 	7 th July – 14 th July NAIDOC WEEK Celebrating history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. 	10 th July Martyrdom of the Báb Execution of the Báb in 1850 	16 th July Dharma Day The Buddha's first Teaching 	16 th July Guru Purnima Full Moon Day. Birth anniversary of great sage Maharshi Vyasa, who edited and reconciled all the holy Vedic Scriptures. Symbolizes Guru-Shishya (Teacher – Student) tradition. 	23 rd July Birthday of Guru Har Krishen Sahib Ji Birthday of the 8 th Guru. He became Guru at age 5. He stressed humility and wisdom and took care of the sick during smallpox epidemic in Delhi. 		
	9 th August International Day of the World's Indigenous People Recognises the first UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations meeting in Geneva in 1982 to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous peoples. Recognises the contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection. 	10 th August Waqf al Arafah (Haji) Season of pilgrimage to Mecca. Islamic observance day during Hajj when pilgrims pray for forgiveness and mercy. 	11 th – 15 th August Eid-al-Adha Four days of the Festival of Sacrifice as it commemorates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son to God; he was replaced with a ram. 	15 th August Assumption / Dormition of Mary Commemorates the death, burial, and ascension of the Virgin Mary. 	15 th August Raksha Bandhan Full moon day. Symbolises the strong and healthy relationship between a brother and sister when a brother vows for her protection. 	15 th August "Hungry Ghost" Festival (Ullambana) Ancestor Day: Celebrate lives of ancestors with food offerings to relieve the sufferings of the ghosts while the spiritual gates are open. 	23 rd August Krishna Janmashtami Birthday of Lord Krishna, narrator of the "way of life" in Bhagavad Gita 	1 st September Al Hijra (Islamic New Year) First day of Muharram, first month in the lunar Islamic calendar, marking Prophet Mohammed's move from Mecca to Medina. 	2 nd September Ganesh Chaturthi 10 day festival of Lord Ganesh begins on this day. 	6 th September Radhashtami Birthday of Goddess Radha, consort of Krishna 	9 th /10 th October Ashura Sunni Muslims: The day that Moses was saved from the Pharaoh's tyranny. Fasting recommended. Shi'a Muslims: The day that Husayn, grandson of Muhammad was martyred. 	17 th September Vishwakarma Puja Creator of the universe and the architect of all Gods 		
SEPT (continued)	29 th September Navaratri Beginning of 10-day festival of Navaratri 	30 th September-1 st October Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) Celebrates the birth of the world marked by the sound of the Shofar (ramshorn), prayer, and 10 days of repentance. 	8 th October Dussehra / Vijaya Dashami One of the most auspicious days. King Ravana was killed in the great war by Lord Rama on this day. 	9 th October Birthday of Guru Ram Das Sahib Ji Birthday of 4 th Sikh Guru, who founded the City of Amritsar and started the construction of the Pool in which stands the Harmandir Sahib – the Golden Temple. 	9 th October Yom Kippur Day of Atonement. The holiest day of the Jewish calendar. Yom Kippur consists of a 25-hour fast while praying with the themes of atonement and repentance. 	13 th October Sangha Day (Theravada Buddhist) 	14 th – 20 th October Sukkot Feast of Tabernacles: Fall harvest and commemorates 40 years in the desert – often celebrated on the first and last 2 days – Last day is an opportunity to give thanks to ancestors, and final chance to atone for sins committed in the last year. 	20 th – 26 th Oct INTERNATIONAL SPIRITUAL CARE WEEK 2019 THEME: "Hospitality - Cultivating Space" 	20 th October Conferment of Guruship to Guru Granth Sahib Ji Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the 10 th Sikh Guru took an extraordinary step in ordaining Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji the Sikh Holy Scripture as the Eternal Guru of the Sikhs. The line of person Guru came to an end and the Shabad (Word) became the Guru. 	22 nd October Simchat Torah Joyful holiday celebrating the completion of annual cycle of weekly Torah readings. 	27 th October Diwali / Deepavali / Bandi Chhor Divas Festival of lights over 5 days, celebrating victory of light over darkness. Can include the Govardhan Puja. Sikhs celebrate Guru Hargobind Sahib's release from prison. He also secured the release of 52 Hindu kings. Others before self. 	29 th – 30 th October Twin Holy Birthdays Birth of the Báb Prophet-Herald of the Baha'i Faith, 1839 Birth of Baha'u'llah Prophet-Founder of the Baha'i Faith, 1817. 		
	1 st November All Saints Day Honouring saints known and unknown, who led lives of holiness and devotion to God. 	11 th November Remembrance Day One minute silence and services held in memory of those who have served and died in all wars. 	12 th November Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Ji Birth of Guru Nanak (1469-1539), founder of Sikhism. 	14 th November Mawlid an-Nabi Prophet Mohammed's Birthday. 	24 th November Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur who stood for the freedom to worship for all religions, against Mughal Emperor Aurangazeb. 	26 th November Day of the Covenant Baha'u'llah's appointment of his son, 'Abdu'l-Baha, as the Centre of His Faith. 	28 th November Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Baha Passing of 'Abdu'l-Baha, son of Baha'u'llah in 1921. 	1 st - 24 th December Advent Reflection, repentance, and belief in Jesus Christ. 	8 th December Bodhi Day Day the historical Buddha attained awakening or "enlightenment" or "Bodhi." 	10 th December Human Rights Day (UN Observance) The date was chosen to honour the United Nations General Assembly's adoption and proclamation (1948) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). 	23 rd – 30 th December Chanukah Celebrates recapture and rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem in the time of the Greeks. 	25 th December Christmas Day Celebrates the birth of Jesus, holiness through prayer and carols, themes of peace and goodwill, and sharing of gifts. 		

Spiritual Health Victoria acknowledges that this calendar was put together on the lands of the Wurundjeri and Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation. We honour all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestors and Elders past, present and to come.

Please note: Jewish Festivals begin at sundown on the previous stated day and, except for Yom Kippur, are celebrated for 2 days. Islamic, Buddhist & Sikh festival dates are estimated and may vary depending on sighting of the lunar crescent/moon, and are sometimes decided during the year.

Only major religious and cultural dates are included in this calendar. There may be others of importance to individuals of particular faiths or communities. It is recommended that personal explanations and memories of traditions are sought and shared.