



Baha'i

Buddhist

Christian

Hindu

Islam

Jain

Jewish

Multifaith

Secular

Sikh

Zoroastrian

INTERFAITH CALENDAR 2009

World faiths have for centuries celebrated key events or aspects of their religious tradition. Such celebrations have been an opportunity to re-enact and re-live encounters with and experiences of the Divine. These significant moments, celebrated each so differently, all converge in their shared belief in something both within and transcendent of this world.

Rosh Hashanah, Easter, Eid al-Fitr, Dipavali, Vesakh, Vaisakhi and numerous other significant celebrations mark this calendar. Their respective meanings, their purpose for being on the calendar, vary widely. However, a common thread is that love, faith, compassion, atonement, forgiveness, thankfulness, leadership, protection, generosity, indeed a sense of the Divine, infuse these celebrations and bring them to life in the spirit of community.

Whatever your faith, tradition, customs, language and heritage, celebrations are a defining part of our Australian identity and history. May yours bring you a sense of peace and hope in the coming year!

George Lekakis

Chairperson

Victorian Multicultural Commission



JANUARY

- 1 **New Years Day**
Feast Day of St Basil – Orthodox
The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God – Catholic
- 4 **Epiphany – Catholic**
- 5 **Birthday of Guru Gobindh Singh**
- 6 **Epiphany**
Theophany – Orthodox
10th Tevet*
- 7 **Ashura****
Feast of the Nativity – Orthodox
- 11 **The Baptism of the Lord – Catholic**
Mahayana Buddhist New Year (Jan 11–14)**
- 14 **Makar Sankranti Maghi**
The Circumcision of Our Lord – Eastern Orthodox
- 18 **World Religion Day – Baha'i**
- 19 **The Epiphany of Our Lord – Eastern Orthodox**
- 26 **Chinese New Year**
- 27 **Losar, Tibetan New Year (start)****
- 31 **Vasant Panchami****

FEBRUARY

- 2 **Candlemas, The Presentation of the Lord**
- 8 **Parinirvana**
Nirvana Day**
Tiodion – Orthodox
- 9 **Tu B'shvat***
- 13 **Magha Puja Day****
- 15 **Nirvana Day****
The Presentation of Our Lord – Eastern Orthodox
- 22 **Meat Fare Sunday – Orthodox**
- 23 **Maha Shivratri****
- 25 **Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)**
- 26 **Ayyam-i-Ha (Intercalary Days)**

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MARCH

- 2 Nineteen Day Fast (March 2–20)
Beginning of Great Lent (Clean Monday)
– Eastern Orthodox
- 5 St Piran's Day
- 8 Sunday of Orthodoxy – Orthodox
- 9 Mawlid an Nabi**
- 10 Purim*
- 11 Shushan Purin*
Holi**
Magha Puja Day**
- 21 Naw-Ruz (Baha'i New Year)
Zoroastrian Jamshedi Noru (Fasil)
- 25 Annunciation of the Virgin Mary, 'Lady Day'
- 26 Khordad Sal (Fasil)
- 27 Bikarami Samvat (New Year)
Ramayana week (Mar 27–Apr 3)**

APRIL

- 3 Rama Navami and Swaminarayan Jayanti
- 5 Palm Sunday
- 7 Mahavira Jayanti
The Annunciation – Eastern Orthodox
- 8 Fast of the Firstborn, Eve of Passover*
- 9 Pesach (Passover)*
Hanuman Jayanti
Theravada New Year
Maundy Thursday, Holy Thursday
- 10 Good Friday
Second day of Passover*
- 11 Lazarus Saturday – Orthodox
- 12 Easter Sunday
Palm Sunday – Eastern Orthodox
- 14 Vaisakhi
Pesach (Eve of 7th day Passover)*
- 15 Pesach (7th day of Passover)*
- 16 Passover (Final day)*
Holy Thursday – Eastern Orthodox
- 17 Holy Friday – Eastern Orthodox
- 18 Lazarus Saturday – Orthodox
- 19 Easter/Pascha – Orthodox
- 21 Declaration of Baha'u'llah (Ridvan)
Yom Hashoah*
- 28 Yom Hazikaron*
- 29 Yom Ha'atzmaut*
Ridvan – Ninth day

MAY

- 2 Ridvan – Twelfth day
- 9 Vesak (Buddha Day)**
- 11 Eve of Lag B'Omer*
- 12 Lag B'Omer*
- 21 Ascension Day
- 22 Yom Yerushalayim*
- 23 Declaration of the Bab
- 24 Ascension Day – Anglican Church of Australia
- 28 Eve of Shavuot*
Ascension of Our Lord – Eastern Orthodox
- 29 Shavuot*
Ascension of Baha'u'llah
- 30 2nd day of Shavuot*
- 31 Pentecost

JUNE

- 7 Trinity Sunday
Pentecost Sunday – Eastern Orthodox
- 11 Corpus Christi
- 14 All Saints' Day – Orthodox
Corpus Christi – Catholic
- 16 Martyrdom of Guru Aarjan Dev
- 28 Saints Peter and Paul – Anglican Church of Australia
- 29 Saints Peter and Paul – Catholic

JULY

- 1 Coming of the Light – Indigenous
- 7 Asala, Dharma Day and Guru Purnima**
- 9 17th Tammuz*
Martyrdom of the Bab
- 12 Saints Peter and Paul – Eastern Orthodox
- 13 Obon (Ulumbana)**
- 15 St Swithin's Day
- 20 Zoroastrian Jamshedi Noruz (Qadimi)
Lailat al Miraj
- 24 Pioneer Day – Mormon
- 25 Zoroastrian Khordad Sal (Qadimi)
- 29 Eve of Tisha B'Av*
- 30 Tisha B'Av*

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AUGUST

- 1 Fast in Honor of Mary – Orthodox
- 5 **Raksha Bandhan****
- 7 Lailat al Bara'ah
- 14 **Janmashtami, Krishna Jayanti****
- 15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Dormition of the Theotokos
- 17 Paryushana
- 22 Ramadan (begins)
- 23 **Ganesh Chaturthi****
- 24 **Zoroastrian Khordad Sal (Shenshai)**

SEPTEMBER

- 1 **Installation of Sri Guru Granth Sahib**
- 5 **Pitr-paksha (5–18)****
- 8 Nativity of the Theotokos, Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross – Catholic
- 17 Lailat al qadr
- 18 **Eve of Rosh Hashanah***
- 19 **Navaratri****
Rosh Hashanah*
- 20 **2nd day of Rosh Hashanah***
- 21 **Fast of Gedaliah***
Eid-UI-Fitr (end of Ramadan)
- 27 **Eve of Yom Kippur***
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross – Eastern Orthodox
- 28 **Dussera****
Yom Kippur*
- 29 St Michael and all Angels – Anglican Church of Australia

OCTOBER

- 2 The Guardian Angels – Catholic
Eve of Sukkot*
- 3 **Sukkot (3–9)***
- 4 **2nd day of Sukkot***
- 9 **Hoshanah Rabbah***
- 10 **Shemini Atzeret***
- 11 **Simchat Torah***
- 17 **Diwali**** – Hindu and Jain
- 20 **Birth of the Bab**
Conferment of Sikh Scripture as Eternal Spiritual Guide
- 26 St Dimitrios Day – Orthodox
- 27 Reformation Day – Protestant

NOVEMBER

- 1 All Saints' Day
- 2 All Souls' Day – Catholic/Anglican Church of Australia
Birthday of Guru Nanak
- 8 Archangels Feast – Orthodox
- 12 Birth of Baha'u'llah
- 14 Nativity Fast begins (ends Dec 24) – Orthodox
- 21 The Archangel Michael and all the Heavenly Host – Eastern Orthodox
- 22 Our Lord Jesus Christ the King – Catholic
- 24 **Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur**
- 25 Hajj (begins, 25–28)
- 26 Day of the Covenant
Waqfa al Arafa
- 28 Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha
Eid-UI-Adha
Beginning of the Advent Fast – Eastern Orthodox
- 29 First Advent Sunday

DECEMBER

- 4 The Entry of the Mother of God in the Temple – Eastern Orthodox
- 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Bodhi Day
- 11 **Chanukkah (1st night)***
- 12 **Chanukkah (12–19)***
- 17 **10th Tevet***
- 18 **Al-Hijira/Muharram (New Year)**
Chanukkah (last night)*
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day
Feast of the Nativity** – Orthodox
- 27 **Ashura****
Feast of the Holy Family – Catholic

While this calendar highlights the specific dates of celebrations across faiths, it should be noted that some religious traditions, such as the Quakers, believe that the whole of life is uniquely sacramental and, consequently, do not mark particular days or seasons as special or more sacred than others. We would like to express our respect for and appreciation of these traditions, as well.

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