



**INTERFAITH NETWORK INC.  
CITY OF GREATER DANDENONG**



**2019**

**UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES**  
*"Listening Well, Hearing Well"*

**JANUARY**



5	Birthday of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji	Sikh	<i>Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji was the 10<sup>th</sup> Sikh Guru Ji</i>
6	Epiphany Sunday	Christian	<i>Visit of the Magi to baby Jesus</i>
7	Nativity/Theophany	Orthodox Christian, Eastern Catholic	<i>Birth of Jesus Christ</i>
15	Makarsankranti/Pongal	Hindu	<i>Sun enters Capricorn Harvest Festival</i>
18	Founders Day	Brahma Kumaris	
19	Theophany	Orthodox Christian, Eastern Catholic	<i>Baptism of Christ and Blessing of Holy Water</i>
20	World Religion Day	Interfaith	
21	Thai Poesam	Hindu	<i>Worship of Lord Muruga</i>
21	Tu B'Shvat	Jewish	<i>New Year for Trees</i>

**FEBRUARY**



4-5	New Year	Buddhist - Mahayana (Chinese, Vietnamese)	<i>Year of the Pig</i>
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1-7	World Interfaith Harmony Week	Interfaith	<i>United Nations declared Inaugural Week in 2011</i>
13	National Apology Day	Koori	<i>11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of National Apology to Stolen Generations</i>
19	Makha Bochea Day (Fourfold Assembly)	Buddhist - Theravada	<i>Celebration in honour of the Sangha (monks, nuns &amp; Buddhist community)</i>
26-1 March	Ayyam-i-Ha	Baha'i	<i>Inter-Calary Days</i>

## MARCH



4	Maha Shiva Ratri	Hindu, Brahma Kumaris	<i>Revelation of Supreme Being (God Shiva); day fasting, night to dawn Temple worship</i>
6	Ash Wednesday	Christian	<i>Season of Lent (Fasting) lasting 40 days until Palm Sunday</i>
11	Great Lent	Orthodox Christian, Eastern Catholic	<i>Penitential Period</i>
2-20	The Fast	Baha'i	<i>Period of Fasting (Sunrise to Sunset)</i>
21	Naw Ruz	Baha'i	<i>New Year</i>
21	Harmony Day	Interfaith	
21	Purim	Jewish	<i>Feast of Queen Esther</i>
23	Holi	Hindu, Brahma Kumaris	<i>Festival of Colours</i>

## APRIL



2	Israa' Me'raj	Muslim	<i>The Prophet Muhammad's Ascension to Heaven</i>
6	Ugadi	Hindu	<i>Telegu New Year</i>
14	New Year	Hindu	<i>Tamil New Year</i>

14	Palm Sunday	Christian	<i>Jesus' entry into Jerusalem</i>
18	Maundy (Holy) Thursday	Christian	
19	Good Friday	Christian	<i>Death of Jesus Christ</i>
20	Pesach	Jewish	<i>Passover - Festival of Freedom, Exodus from slavery in Egypt</i>
21	Palm Sunday	Orthodox Christian, Eastern Catholic	<i>Jesus' entry into Jerusalem</i>
21	Easter (Resurrection) Sunday	Christian	<i>Rising of Jesus Christ</i>
25	Holy Thursday	Orthodox Christian, Eastern Catholic	
26	Great Friday	Orthodox Christian, Eastern Catholic	<i>Death of Jesus Christ</i>
28	Pascha Sunday	Orthodox Christian, Eastern Catholic	<i>Rising of Jesus Christ</i>
28	Easter (Resurrection) Sunday	Orthodox Christian, Eastern Catholic	<i>Rising of Jesus Christ</i>
14	Vaisakhi Festival	Sikh	<i>The first initiation of Khalsa Brotherhood by Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji (1699)</i>
14-16	New Year Day	Buddhist - Theravada (Burmese, Cambodian, Lao, Sri Lankan, Thai)	<i>Solar Calendar</i>
19	Lailatul-Bara'at	Muslim	<i>The Night of Salvation</i>
24	Bhagawan Sai Baba's Aradhana Mahotsavam	Sri Sathya Sai	<i>Death of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba</i>
21 <sup>st</sup> April to 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Feast of Rivdan	Baha'i	<i>Declaration of Baha'u'llah, Prophet - Founder of the Baha'i Faith</i>

# MAY



2	Yom Ha Sho'ah	Jewish	<i>Holocaust Memorial Day</i>
6	Easwaramma Day	Sri Sathya Sai	<i>Mother and Children's Day</i>
6	Ramadan (First Day)	Muslim	<i>Start of the month of fasting</i>
9	Yom Ha'Atzma'ut	Jewish	<i>Declaration of Independence of State of Israel</i>
13	World Falun Dafa Day		
18	Vesak	Buddhist - Theravada (Burmese, Lao, Sri Lankan, Thai, Cambodian)	<i>Birth, Enlightenment and Passing Away of Lord Buddha</i>
19	Vesak	Buddhist - Mahayana (Chinese, Vietnamese)	<i>Birth, Enlightenment and Passing Away of Lord Buddha</i>
26	National Sorry Day	Koori Community	<i>Since 1997 held annually to remember and commemorate the mistreatment of Australia's indigenous people</i>
27 May to 3 June	National Reconciliation Week  27 <sup>th</sup> May: Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum  3 <sup>rd</sup> June: Mabo Day	Koori Community	<i>Celebrating the Week of Reconciliation with the Koori Community</i>  <i>The Referendum removed discriminatory clauses from the Australian Constitution</i>  <i>Anniversary of the High Court decision in 1992 recognising Native Title rights</i>
29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah	Baha'i	<i>Baha'u'llah: Prophet - Founder of the Baha'i Faith</i>
31	Lailatul-Qadr	Muslim	<i>The Night of Power</i>

## JUNE



3	Mabo Day	Koori Community	<i>Anniversary of the High Court decision in 1992 recognising Native Title rights</i>
4	Eid-al-Fitr (End of Ramadan)	Muslim	<i>Festival of the Breaking of the Fast</i>
9	Shavuot	Jewish	<i>Festival of Weeks – Giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai</i>
9	Pentecost	Christian	<i>Coming of the Holy Spirit</i>
16	Martyrdom of Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji	Sikh	<i>Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji was the 5<sup>th</sup> Sikh Guru; his message was compassion, love, worship of one God and commitment to peace and harmony for all humanity</i>
16	Poson	Buddhist - Theravada (Sri Lankan)	<i>Coming of Buddhism to Sri Lanka in 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC</i>

## JULY



8-15	National Aboriginal & Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week	Koori Community	<i>Celebrates survival of people and culture</i>
10	Martyrdom of the Bab	Baha'i	<i>The Bab - forerunner of the Baha'i Faith</i>
17	Rains Retreat	Buddhist - Theravada (Burmese, Lao, Sri Lankan, Thai, Cambodian)	<i>Start of the Rains Retreat; All monks and novices remain in their temples for 3 months</i>

## AUGUST



4	National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day	Koori Community	<i>First observed in 1988; each year has a special theme</i>
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9	International Day	Koori Community	<i>International Day of the World's indigenous people 1</i>
11	Tisha B'Av	Jewish	<i>Day of Mourning</i>
11	Vu Lan Day (Ullambana)	Buddhist - Mahayana (Chinese, Vietnamese)	<i>Ancestor Appreciation Day</i>
11	Yaum-al-Arafah Day of Arafaat (Hajj)	Muslim	<i>Start of Pilgrimage</i>
12	Eid-al-Adha	Muslim	<i>Festival of the Sacrifice</i>
15	Raksha Bhandhan	Brahma Kumaris	<i>Sisters tie thread (Rakhi) to brothers, symbolizing sister bondage</i>

## SEPTEMBER



1	Al-Hijra (Muharram)	Muslim	<i>New Year (1441) (First day)</i>
2	Shri Ganesh Chaturthi	Hindu	<i>Festival celebrating incarnation of Lord Ganesha (Vinayaka); fasting sunrise to sunset</i>
9	Day of Ashura	Muslim	<i>10<sup>th</sup> Day - day of fasting</i>
14	Children's Festival (Moon's Festival)	Buddhist - Mahayana (Vietnamese)	<i>Celebrates children by giving them fun through music &amp; lantern lighting</i>
28	Pchum Ben	Buddhist - Theravada (Burmese, Lao, Sri Lankan, Thai, Cambodian)	<i>Ancestor Day</i>
30	Rosh HaShanah	Jewish	<i>New Year</i>

## OCTOBER



7	Navarathri (Nine Nights) Saraswathi Pooja	Hindu	<i>Ninth night dedicated to Goddess Sarawathi</i>
8	Vijaya Thasami	Hindu	<i>Day after end of Navaar (Tenth night)</i>
9	Yom Kippur	Jewish	<i>Day of Atonement</i>
13	Rains Retreat	Buddhist - Theravada (Burmese, Lao, Sri Lankan, Thai, Cambodian)	<i>End of the Rains Retreat</i>
14	Sukkot	Jewish	<i>Festival of Booths - Major Harvest Festival</i>
14	Kathina Day	Buddhist - Theravada (Burmese, Lao, Sri Lankan, Thai, Cambodian)	<i>Robe Offering to Monks; Ceremonies held between the full moon day of October and the full moon day of November</i>
20	Proclamation of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji	Sikh	<i>The proclamation of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji as Eternal Guru of Sikhs by Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji (1708)</i>
21	Shemini Atzeret	Jewish	<i>Rejoicing of the Torah</i>
22	Simhat Torah	Jewish	<i>Added day of Rejoicing of the Torah</i>
24	United Nations Day	Interfaith	
27	Deepavali (Diwali)	Hindu, Brahma Kumaris	<i>Festival of Lights</i>
27	Bhandi Chhor Divas	Sikh	<i>Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji the 6<sup>th</sup> Sikh Guru, agreed to his release from prison on the condition that 52 imprisoned Hindu Kings were also released</i>

29	Birth of the Bab	Baha'i	<i>The Bab - forerunner of the Baha'i Faith</i>
30	Birth of Baha'u'llah	Baha'i	<i>Baha'u'llah: Prophet - Founder of the Baha'i Faith</i>

## NOVEMBER



1	All Saints Day	Christian	<i>Day to honour all saints and believers, living and dead</i>
8	Mawlid al-Nabi	Muslim	<i>Birth of the Prophet Muhammad'</i>
9-10	Akhanda Bhajan (Global)	Sri Sathya Sai	<i>24 Hours World Peace Prayers</i>
12	Birth of Sri Guru Nanak Dev	Sikh	<i>Sri Guru Nanak Dev was the Founder of the Sikh faith</i>
23	Sri Sathya Sai Baba's Birthday	Sri Sathya Sai	<i>Sai Baba's 94<sup>th</sup> Birthday</i>
24	Martyrdom of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji	Sikh	<i>Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji was the 9<sup>th</sup> Sikh Guru</i>

## DECEMBER



1	Advent Sunday	Christian	<i>Beginning of preparation for Christmas correct</i>
23	Chanukah	Jewish	<i>Feast of Re-dedication of Jerusalem Temple (Festival of Lights)</i>
25	Christmas Day	Christian	<i>Birthday of Jesus Christ</i>

*Dates for Muslim Holy Days and Festivals are the EXPECTED dates only and should be confirmed by physical moon sighting or contacting the local masjid (mosque). Dates for observing Baha'i, Jewish & Islamic Holy Days and Festivals begin on the sunset of the previous day.*

15.3.2019