



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



**2018**

**UNITED NATIONS DAY 2018:  
“Our Community - A World in One City”**

**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>
7	Nativity/Theophany	Orthodox Christian, Eastern Catholic	<i>Birth of Jesus Christ</i>
7	Epiphany Sunday	Christian	<i>Visit of the Magi to baby Jesus</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	
31	Thai Poosam	Hindu	<i>Worship of Lord Muruga</i>
31	Tu B'Shvat	Jewish	<i>New Year for Trees</i>

**FEBRUARY**



1-7	World Interfaith Harmony Week	Interfaith	<i>United Nations declared Inaugural Week in 2011</i>
13	National Apology Day	Koori	<i>10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of National Apology to Stolen Generations</i>

14	Maha Shiva Ratri	Hindu Brahma Kumaris	<i>Revelation of Supreme Being (God Shiva); day fasting, night to dawn Temple worship</i>
14	Ash Wednesday	Christian	<i>Season of Lent (Fasting) lasting 40 days until Palm Sunday</i>
15-16	Lunar New Year	Buddhist – Mahayana (Chinese, Vietnamese)	<i>Year of the Dog</i>
25-1 March	Ayyam-i-Ha	Baha'i	<i>Inter-Calary Days</i>

## MARCH



1	Purim	Jewish	<i>Feast of Queen Esther</i>
1	Holi	Brahma Kumaris	<i>Festival of Colours</i>
3	Holi	Hindu	<i>Festival of Colours</i>
2-20	The Fast	Baha'i	<i>Period of Fasting (Sunrise to Sunset)</i>
18	Ugadi	Hindu	<i>Telegu New Year</i>
21	Naw Ruz	Baha'i	<i>New Year</i>
21	Harmony Day	Interfaith	
25	Palm Sunday	Christian	<i>Jesus' entry into Jerusalem</i>
29	Maundy (Holy) Thursday	Christian;	
30	Good Friday	Christian	<i>Death of Jesus Christ</i>
31	Pesach	Jewish	<i>Passover - Festival of Freedom, Exodus from slavery in Egypt</i>

# APRIL



1	Easter (Resurrection) Sunday	Christian	<i>Rising of Jesus Christ</i>
1	Palm Sunday	Orthodox Christian, Eastern Catholic	<i>Jesus' entry into Jerusalem</i>
5	Maundy (Holy) Thursday	Orthodox Christian, Eastern Catholic	
6	Great Friday	Orthodox Christian, Eastern Catholic	<i>Death of Jesus Christ</i>
8	Easter (Resurrection) Sunday	Orthodox Christian, Eastern Catholic	<i>Rising of Jesus Christ</i>
12	Yom Ha Sho'ah	Jewish	<i>Holocaust Memorial Day</i>
13	Israa' Me'raj	Muslim	<i>The Prophet Muhammad's Ascension to Heaven</i>
14	New Year	Hindu	<i>Tamil New Year</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	Yom Ha'Atzma'ut	Jewish	<i>Declaration of Independence of State of Israel</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>
29	Vesak	Buddhist - Theravada (Cambodian)	<i>Birth, Enlightenment and Passing Away of Lord Buddha</i>

30	Lailatul-Bara'at	Muslim	<i>The Night of Salvation</i>
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**MAY**



6	Easwaramma Day	Sri Sathya Sai	<i>Mother and Children's Day</i>
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13	World Falun Dafa Day		
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16	*Ramadan (First Day)	Muslim	<i>Start of the month of fasting</i>
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20	Shavuot	Jewish	<i>Festival of Weeks – Giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai</i>
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20	Pentecost	Christian	<i>Coming of the Holy Spirit</i>
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26	National Sorry Day	Koori Community	<i>Since 1997 held annually to remember and commemorate the mistreatment of Australia's indigenous people</i>
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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>
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27	Vesak	Buddhist - Mahayana (Chinese, Vietnamese)	<i>Birth, Enlightenment and Passing Away of Lord Buddha</i>
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29	Vesak	Buddhist - Theravada (Burmese, Lao, Sri Lankan, Thai)	<i>Birth, Enlightenment and Passing Away of Lord Buddha</i>
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29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah	Baha'i	<i>Baha'u'llah: Prophet - Founder of the Baha'i Faith</i>
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## JUNE



3	Mabo Day	Koori Community	<i>Anniversary of the High Court decision in 1992 recognising Native Title rights</i>
11	Lailatul-Qadr	Muslim	<i>The Night of Power</i>
15	Eid-al-Fitr (End of Ramadan)	Muslim	<i>Festival of the Breaking of the Fast</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>
27	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>
22	Tisha B'Av	Jewish	<i>Day of Mourning</i>
27	Rains Retreat	Buddhist - Theravada (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</i>
20	*Yaum-al-Arafah Day of Arafat (Hajj)	Muslim	<i>Start of Pilgrimage</i>
22	Eid-al-Adha	Muslim	<i>Festival of the Sacrifice</i>
26	Vu Lan Day (Ullambana)	Buddhist - Mahayana (Chinese, Vietnamese)	<i>Ancestor Day - especially venerating mothers</i>
26	Raksha Bhandhan	Brahma Kumaris, Vaisnava Hindus (Hare Krishna Movement)	<i>Sisters tie thread (Rakhi) to brothers, symbolizing sister bondage</i>
27	Rains Retreat	Buddhist - Theravada (Burmese, Lao, Sri Lankan, Thai)	<i>Start of the Rains Retreat; All monks and novices remain in their temples for 3 months</i>

## SEPTEMBER



2	Janamastami	Brahma Kumaris	<i>Appearance of Lord Shri Krishna in the current age of Kali Yuga (Birth Day)</i>
10	Rosh HaShanah	Jewish	<i>New Year</i>
12	Al-Hijra (Muharram)	Muslim	<i>New Year (1439) (First day)</i>
13	Shri Ganesh Chaturthi	Hindu	<i>Festival celebrating incarnation of Lord Ganesha (Vinayaka); fasting sunrise to sunset</i>
19	Yom Kippur	Jewish	<i>Day of Atonement</i>
20	*Day of Ashura	Muslim	<i>10<sup>th</sup> Day - day of fasting</i>
22	Children's Festival (Moon's Festival)	Buddhist - Mahayana (Vietnamese)	<i>Celebrates children by giving them fun through music &amp; lantern lighting</i>
24	Sukkot	Jewish	<i>Festival of Booths - Major Harvest Festival</i>

## OCTOBER



1	Shemini Atzeret	Jewish	<i>Rejoicing of the Torah</i>
2	Simhat Torah	Jewish	<i>Added day of Rejoicing of the Torah</i>
9	Pchum Ben	Buddhist - Theravada (Cambodian)	<i>Ancestor Day</i>
18	Navarathri (Nine Nights) Saraswathi Pooja	Hindu	<i>Ninth night dedicated to Goddess Sarawathi</i>
19	Vijaya Thasami	Hindu	<i>Day after end of Navaar (Tenth night)</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>
24	Rains Retreat	Buddhist - Theravada (Burmese, Lao, Sri Lankan, Thai)	<i>End of the Rains Retreat</i>
24	United Nations Day	Interfaith	
25 Oct to 22 Nov	Kathina Ceremony	Buddhist - Theravada (Cambodian)	<i>Robe Offering to Monks; Ceremonies held between the full moon day of October and the full moon day of November</i>

## NOVEMBER



1	All Saints Day	Christian	<i>Day to honour all saints and believers, living and dead</i>
6	Deepavali (Diwali)	Hindu	<i>Festival of Lights</i>
9	Birth of the Bab	Baha'i	<i>The Bab - forerunner of the Baha'i Faith</i>

9	Diwali - "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>
10	Birth of Baha'u'llah	Baha'i	<i>Baha'u'llah: Prophet - Founder of the Baha'i Faith</i>
10-11	Akhanda Bhajan (Global)	Sri Sathya Sai	<i>24 Hours World Peace Prayers</i>
21	Mawlid al-Nabi	Muslim	<i>Birth of the Prophet Muhammad'</i>
23	Sri Sathya Sai Baba's Birthday	Sri Sathya Sai	<i>Sai Baba's 92<sup>nd</sup> Birthday</i>
23	Birthday of Sri Guru Nanak Dev	Sikh	<i>Sri Guru Nanak Dev was the Founder of the Sikh faith</i>
24	Rains Retreat	Buddhist - Theravada (Cambodian)	<i>End of the Rains Retreat</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>
25 Nov to 22 Dec	Kathina Ceremony	Buddhist - Theravada (Burmese, Lao, Sri Lankan, Thai)	<i>Robe Offering to Monks; Ceremonies held between the full moon day of October and the full moon day of November</i>

## DECEMBER



1	Chanukah	Jewish	<i>Feast of Re-dedication of Jerusalem Temple (Festival of Lights)</i>
2	Advent Sunday	Christian	<i>Beginning of preparation for Christmas correct</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.*

4.4.2018