



VICTORIAN OBSERVANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
**VESAK CELEBRATION**  
A Multi-cultural Celebration of the  
Buddha's Birth, Enlightenment and Passing



**MEDIA RELEASE**

Date: 12 April 2016

**For immediate release**

**CELEBRATE 2016 VICTORIAN OBSERVANCE of THE UNITED NATIONS DAY OF VESAK**

Vesak is when Buddhist's in Victoria, across Australia and around the World observe and recollect together the Lord Buddha's birth, enlightenment and passing away. Commemorated annually by the United Nations to acknowledge the contribution which Buddhism, one of the world's oldest religions, has made for over 2600 years and continues to make to the spirituality of humanity and fostering of world peace.

**In the Heart of Melbourne - on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> of May - Victoria's Buddhist Community** will come together to Celebrate Vesak – and we warmly invite our fellow Victorians to share with us in the day's three key events:

1. Sangha Dāna: starting at 10am
2. Vesak Procession starting at 1.00pm
3. Grand Celebration starting at 1.30pm.

Vesak Celebrations start with – Sangha Dana - offering lunch to many of Victoria's Venerable Buddhist Monks and Nuns at St Peter's Parish Hall, East Melbourne - then from Parliament Reserve, the Vesak Procession - with the resonating sound of a gong followed a radiant image of the Buddha - the Sangha will lead lantern bearers and hundreds of lay Buddhists - young and old - from Buddhist Temple communities across Victoria - walking mindfully together, waving colorful flags, to the beat of traditional drummers and sight of traditional dancers.

Walking down Collins Street – the Procession arrives at the Town Hall at 1.30pm – to announce the beginning of the **9<sup>th</sup> Victorian Observance of the United Nation's Day of Vesak – Grand Celebrations.**

Commencing with the powerful sight of the Holy relic and Sangha procession, chanting from various Buddhist traditions, cultural performance, Dharma talk & guided meditation, interfaith dialogue, musical performance, and the auspicious and rare blessings, which come with the **viewing and veneration of the Buddha relics.**

This is a multicultural Vesak Celebration shared by Victoria's vibrant and diverse Buddhist cultures and languages, traditions and forms of practice – including from the Burmese, Cambodian, Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Karen, Korean, Laotian, Malaysian, Mongolian, Thai, Tibetan, Sri Lankan, Taiwanese and Vietnamese communities. Leaders from Melbourne's Interfaith community will also join in the commemoration as the Vesak message of peace is echoed in every faith.

The event has been kindly sponsored by the City of Melbourne.

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

For more information, including requests for photos or interviews, please contact: Ms Myly Nguyen, President, Victorian United Nations Day of Vesak Inc. on 0432 225 950.

Media are invited to attend the UN Day of Vesak at the Melbourne Town Hall.

Email: [unvesak@gmail.com](mailto:unvesak@gmail.com) Website: [www.unvesak.org](http://www.unvesak.org)