NSW GOVERNMENT | MULTICULTURAL NSW

DAYS OF RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE 2016

A GUIDE

HARMONY
IN
ACTION

ENGAGE
ENABLE
ENRICH

FORWARD

Multicultural NSW exists to build and maintain a cohesive and harmonious multicultural society that enriches the lives of all people in NSW. It is driven by three key principles: Engage with all sections of society and break down barriers to participation; enable equitable access to services and programs; and enrich social and economic capacity through cultural diversity as an asset of our State.

Through its enabling Act, Multicultural NSW promotes the equal rights and responsibilities of all the people of New South Wales where individuals share a commitment to New South Wales and Australia, diversity is regarded as an asset, and English is the common language.

This calendar is not a totally comprehensive list of all days of religious observance, but is a guide for employers and managers to assist them in accommodating the need of employees.

A Guide to some of the Days of Religious Significance

Days that people may request to take leave in 2016

The ethnic descriptor preceding "Religion" is not exhaustive and other ethnic groups may also celebrate the same day. Some dates may be slightly different depending on the calendar used (i.e. Lunar, Julian, Solar, Gregorian, Fasli, Qadimi, Shenshai, etc.).

JANUARY 2016	DAY OF RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE	RELIGION
1	Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God New Year's Day	Catholic Certain Orthodox Christian
5	Eve of Feast of Holy Nativity and Theophany of Jesus Christ	Armenian Orthodox
6	Feast of Holy Nativity and Theopany of Jesus Christ Holy Epiphany/The Baptism of our Lord Christmas Day/ Nativity of Christ	Catholic Certain Orthodox Christian Armenian Orthodox
7	Christmas Day/ Holy Nativity of our Lord Feast	Orthodox Christian
14	Lohri Orthodox New Year	Sikh Orthodox Christian
15	Makar Sankranti/Pongal	Hindu
16	Gurupurab/Birth of Guru Gobind Singh	Sikh
20	Holy Epiphany	Orthodox Christian
24	Jashan-e Sadeh	Zoroastrian
28	Feast of St Ephraim the Syrian	Syrian Orthodox

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FEBRUARY 2016

	DAY OF RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE	RELIGION
2	Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple	Orthodox Christian
4	Saint Vartan's Day	Armenian Orthodox
8	Great Lent/Ash Monday The Renunciation of Shakyamuni Buddha Lunar New Year Losar/Tibetan New Year	Chaldean and Maronite Catholic Buddhist (Mahayana) Buddhist (Mahayana) Buddhist (Vajrayana)
9	Saint Maroun's Day Shrove Tuesday	Maronite Catholic Christian
10	Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)	Christian
12	Vasant Panchami	Hindu
15	Parinirvana – Nirvana Day	Buddhist
22-25	Three Days Fast of Nineveh	Syrian Orthodox

MARCH 2016

	DAY OF RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE	RELIGION
1-20	Baha'i Fasting Period	Baha'i
7	Maha Shivaratri	Hindu
14	Clean Monday – Beginning of the Great Lent	Orthodox Christian
18	King Abgar of Edessa and Syriac Martyr's Day	Syrian Orthodox
20	Palm Sunday	Catholic
21	Jamshedi Nowruz (New Year in Fasli Calendar) Iranian and Kurdish New Year Baha'i New Year	Zoroastrian (Fasli) Baha'i
23	St Rafqa Day Holi Memorial of the Death of Jesus Magha Puja/Sangha Day	Maronite Catholic Hindu Jehovah's Witnesses Buddhist
24	Purim Holy Thursday/Maundy Thursday	Jewish Catholic, Christian
25	Good Friday Annunciation of the Virgin Mary Annunciation of the Lord	Catholic, Anglican Orthodox Christian Catholic
26	Khordad Sal (Zoroaster's Birthday in Fasli calendar) Holy Saturday (Eve of Jesus Christ's Resurrection) Easter Saturday	Zoroastrian (Fasli) Catholic Anglican
27	Easter Sunday Feast of the Glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ Palm Sunday Guan Yin Bodhisattva's Enlightenment Day	Catholic Anglican Orthodox Christian Buddhist

APRIL 2016	DAY OF RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE	RELIGION
8	Hindi New Year	Hindu
13	Vaisakhi/Baisakhi/Vishu	Hindu
14	Sikh New Year, Creation of Khalsa	Sikh
19-22	Hanuman Jayanti	Hindu
20	First Day of Ridvan (Holy Day)	Baha'i
13-15	Theravada New Year	Buddhist – Theravada
22-30	Pesach/Passover	Jewish
28	Maundy Thursday The Ninth Day of Ridvan (Holy Day)	Orthodox Christian Baha'i
29	Good Friday	Orthodox Christian

MAY 2016	DAY OF RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE	RELIGION
1	Easter Sunday (Pascha) The Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Holy Day)	Orthodox Christian Baha'i
5	Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ into Heaven Night of Isra' and Mi^raj (27 Rajab)	Christian Catholic Islam
15	Visakha Puja/ Buddha Day (The Birthday of Shakayamuni Buddha) Pentecost/Whitsunday	Buddhist Catholic
23	Declaration of the Bab in Shiraz (Holy Day)	Baha'i
28	Ascension of Bahau'llah (Holy Day)	Baha'i

JUNE 2016	DAY OF RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE	RELIGION
3	The Night of 15th of Sha^aban/Lailatul Barat	Islam
6	Ramadan begins	Islam
11-13	Shavuot/Pentecost	Jewish
16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib	Sikh
19	Pentecost	Orthodox Christian
29	St Peter & St Paul's Feast Day	Christian

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JULY 2016

	DAY OF RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE	RELIGION
1	Jashne Tirgan (Celebration of Tishtar)	Zoroastrian
2	Laylatul Al-Qadr	Islam
7	Eid Al-Fitr (end of Ramadam)	Islam
9	Martyrdom of the Bab (Holy Day)	Baha'i
17	St Charbel's Feast Day	Maronite
19	Mandaean New Year (Kanshuzahly) Asalha Puja	Mandaean Buddhist
20	Guru Purnima	Hindu

AUGUST 2016

	DAY OF RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE	RELIGION
6	Transfiguration of Our Lord (Feast)	Orthodox Christian
8	St Mary of the Cross (Mary MacKillop)	Catholic
15	Assumption of Mary Dormition of the Theotokos	Christian Orthodox Christian
17	Ullambana Day (Sangha Day)	Buddhist
18	Raksha Bandhan	Hindu
25	Krishna Janmastami/Jayanti	Hindu

SEPTEMBER 2016

	DAY OF RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE	RELIGION
1	First Prakash Of Guru Granth Sahib (Opening of the Holy Book)	Sikh
3	Hijra / Islamic New Year	Islam
5	Ganesh Chaturthi	Hindu
10	Arafa Day	Islam
11	Nayrouz/Coptic New Year	Coptic Christian
11-14	Eid Al-Adha	Islam
21	Holy Archangel Michael	Christian

OCTOBER 2016	DAY OF RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE	RELIGION
1-10	Navaratri/ Durga Puja	Hindu
2	Jashn-e Mehregan (Persian Festival of Autumn) Islamic New Year (Al Hiraj)	Zoroastrian Islam
3-4	Rosh HaShana (Jewish New Year)	Jewish
11	Vijay Dashmi (Dussera)	Hindu
12	Yom Kippur Ashura	Jewish Islam
17-23	Sukkot	Jewish
20	Gurugaddi Day of Guru Granth Sahib	Sikh
30	Deepavali/Diwali	Hindu

NOVEMBER 2016	DAY OF RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE	RELIGION
1	All Saints' Day Bhai Dooj Birth of The Bab	Christian Hindu Baha'i
2	All Souls' Day Birth of Baha'u'llah	Christian Baha'i
4	Dehwa Honina	Mandaean
14	Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev	Sikh
24	Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib	Sikh

NOVEMBER 2016	DAY OF RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE	RELIGION
8	Bodhi Day (Rohatsu)	Buddhist
12	Mawlid an-Nabi (Prophet Muhammad Birth)	Islam
14	St Nemetallah Hardini	Maronite Catholic
24-1 Jan	Hanukkah/Chanukah	Jewish
25	Christmas	Catholic, Anglican Certain Orthodox Christian
26	Zartosht No-Diso (Death Anniversary of Zarathushtra)	Zoroastrian
26	Second Day of Christmas	Chaldean Catholic

Notes

- Islamic days may adjust one or two days from either side of the dates above, subject to the lunar cycle.
- Jewish days may commence at sunset the previous day.