



The Hon. Alan Tudge MP

ACTING MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP,
MIGRANT SERVICES AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

5 May 2020

MESSAGE FOR VESAK

I send my warmest wishes to Buddhist Australians commemorating Vesak, the most important celebration in the Buddhist calendar where Buddhists across the world spend the day commemorating the birth, enlightenment and the passing of the Buddha.

Buddhist Australians celebrate Vesak day in many ways, including decorating temples and monasteries, participating in processions and prayers or spending the day at temples in meditation and quiet reflection.

Obviously, commemorating Vesak for Buddhist Australians this year is going to be very different as we face an unprecedented global health crisis.

At this time, we all have a role to play to keep our community safe. While we cannot gather in temples and monasteries or participate in processions, we can be together in spirit reflecting on the life and teachings of the Buddha.

Faith gives us strength and inspiration at times of uncertainty and disruption. We can all draw from the enduring message of the Buddha – a message of compassion, charity, kindness and resilience in the face of life's challenges.

I thank the Buddhist Australian community for your continued contribution to our nation and wish you health, happiness and peace as you mark this holy occasion.

ALAN TUDGE

Everyone celebrating this important time is encouraged to stay informed with the Government's COVID-19 response measures, current restrictions and adhere to official government advice by visiting: <https://Australia.gov.au/>. The Government's factsheets are also available in over 60 different languages and can be found by visiting: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/covid-19/Pages/covid-19-english.aspx?lang=english>