

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

VESAK 2021

I'm delighted to send my warmest wishes to all members of the Australian Buddhist community on Vesak as you mark the birth, enlightenment and passing of the Buddha.

This day is a time for Buddhists around the world to unite in the Buddha's message of peace, love and compassion.

At a time of great uncertainty for so many, Buddhists can take comfort in the diverse traditions celebrated on Vesak that transcend distance and difference.

We have asked much of faith communities this past year.

I am so grateful to the Australian Buddhist community for your sacrifices and commitment to the health and wellbeing of your fellow Australians.

I congratulate all who have worked so hard to bring about this COVID-safe multicultural day of unity.

Australians have shown an indomitable spirit in this pandemic. Striving to do what is right. Determined to stay together. Committed to the safety of the most precious and vulnerable members of our communities.

This year, we look to the future with confidence in a safe and effective vaccine, and a sense of hope in our hearts that brings a new energy and light to the festivals we cherish.

On this Vesak, as you celebrate the Buddha's values of equality, kindness and compassion, I thank you for sharing so openly this joyous festival of your faith.

The Hon Scott Morrison MP Prime Minister of Australia

May 2021