



## The Buddhist Federation of Australia Inc.

ABN: 66 088 081 773

Head Office: 70 Mary Street Surry Hills NSW 2010

Email: [bfaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:bfaustralia@gmail.com); [psatit@live.com.au](mailto:psatit@live.com.au)

Website: <https://unvesakaustralia.org>

Tel: (61) 417422171, (61) 411453946

### Media statement

#### The 2020 Australian Observance of the United Nations Day of Vesak

The Buddhist Federation of Australia would like to express its sincere concern for the impact that the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is having on the lives of people in Australia and around the world. We understand the levels of concern in the community caused by the health risks from the virus as well as the socio-economic crisis brought on by the significant reduction in employment and general social and commercial activities. We especially appreciate the dedication and professionalism of healthcare workers who put their lives at risk on the frontline in dealing with this crisis and we support the efforts and measures put in place by the government at this difficult and challenging time.

In order to comply with the physical distancing requirements, the annual United Nations Day of Vesak celebration will be held online this year. Everyone with a smart phone, television or computer having access to Facebook or YouTube is welcome to join in. It will be a celebration that involves Buddhist chanting and prayer, meditation and music. The chanting will be from the three main Buddhist disciplines represented in Australia: Theravada, Mahayana and Vajrayana, as well as Common Buddhist Chanting which comes from a condensed mixture of these three traditions. A guided meditation will be conducted by the inimitable Venerable Pannyavaro, Australian founding master of Buddhnet.

The online event will start from 6:45 pm on Wednesday 6th May 2020 with a 15-minute introduction featuring the Australian Observance of the United Nations Day of Vesak documentary and music. The main Vesak celebration will start from 7:00 pm and end at 7:45 pm.

Please choose one of the two following options to participate in the 2020 Australian Observance of the United Nations Day of Vesak:

#### OPTION 1:



#### Facebook:

1. Log into your Facebook account and go to The Australian Observance of the United Nations Day of Vesak Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/UNVesakAus/>
2. Click the Follow button to get notified of updates and to take part in the Watch Party for the event when it is scheduled.
3. On Wednesday 6th May 2020, go to the Facebook page at 6:45 pm and you will be notified about joining the Watch Party.

OR

**OPTION 2:**



YouTube

1. Go to YouTube website (<https://www.youtube.com>) and search for the channel “Australian UN Vesak Celebrations”
2. Log into your YouTube account and click on the SUBSCRIBE button.
3. On Wednesday 6th May 2020, you will be notified via YouTube notifications to join the live stream event. You can also take part in the live chat with other attendees.

We will meditate together in solidarity, compassion and peace, knowing that we will overcome this unprecedented crisis and that the coronavirus will be contained.

For further enquiries:

Dr Jeff Wilson: [Jeffwlsn4@gmail.com](mailto:Jeffwlsn4@gmail.com) Tel. 0432 106 536

Khai Dang: [khai\\_dang@hotmail.com](mailto:khai_dang@hotmail.com) Tel. 0414 493506

Venerable Phra Satit: [psatit@live.com.au](mailto:psatit@live.com.au) Tel. 0411 453 946

Henry Dang: [bfaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:bfaustralia@gmail.com) Tel: 0417 422 171

