



Leader of the Opposition

UNITED NATIONS DAY OF VESAK

It is with great pleasure that I send you my warmest greetings for the Australian observance of the United Nations Day of Vesak.

It is a day of significance as the light of the full moon gives the sign to commemorate the birth, enlightenment and passing of Sakyamuni Gautama Buddha. The many centuries since his passing have, if anything, served to emphasise the timelessness, the value and the power of his wisdom.

It is also a reminder of what a welcome part of the Australian family that the Buddhist community is. You are an intrinsic part of who we are as a nation. We celebrate both the differences of our many parts, and our great strength as a whole. The Day of Vesak is an important part of that.

Of course, as with so many other events this year, this Day of Vesak will be different due to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, as the great celebration goes online this year, with meditation and chanting drawn together from three Buddhist traditions, it will be another reminder that even as the pandemic has pushed us apart physically for now, it has in so many other ways brought us closer together.

On behalf of my colleagues, I wish you the best on this auspicious day.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Albanese', written in a cursive style.

Anthony Albanese
Leader of the Australian Labor Party