

FESTIVALS OF INDIA, *uniting her people...*

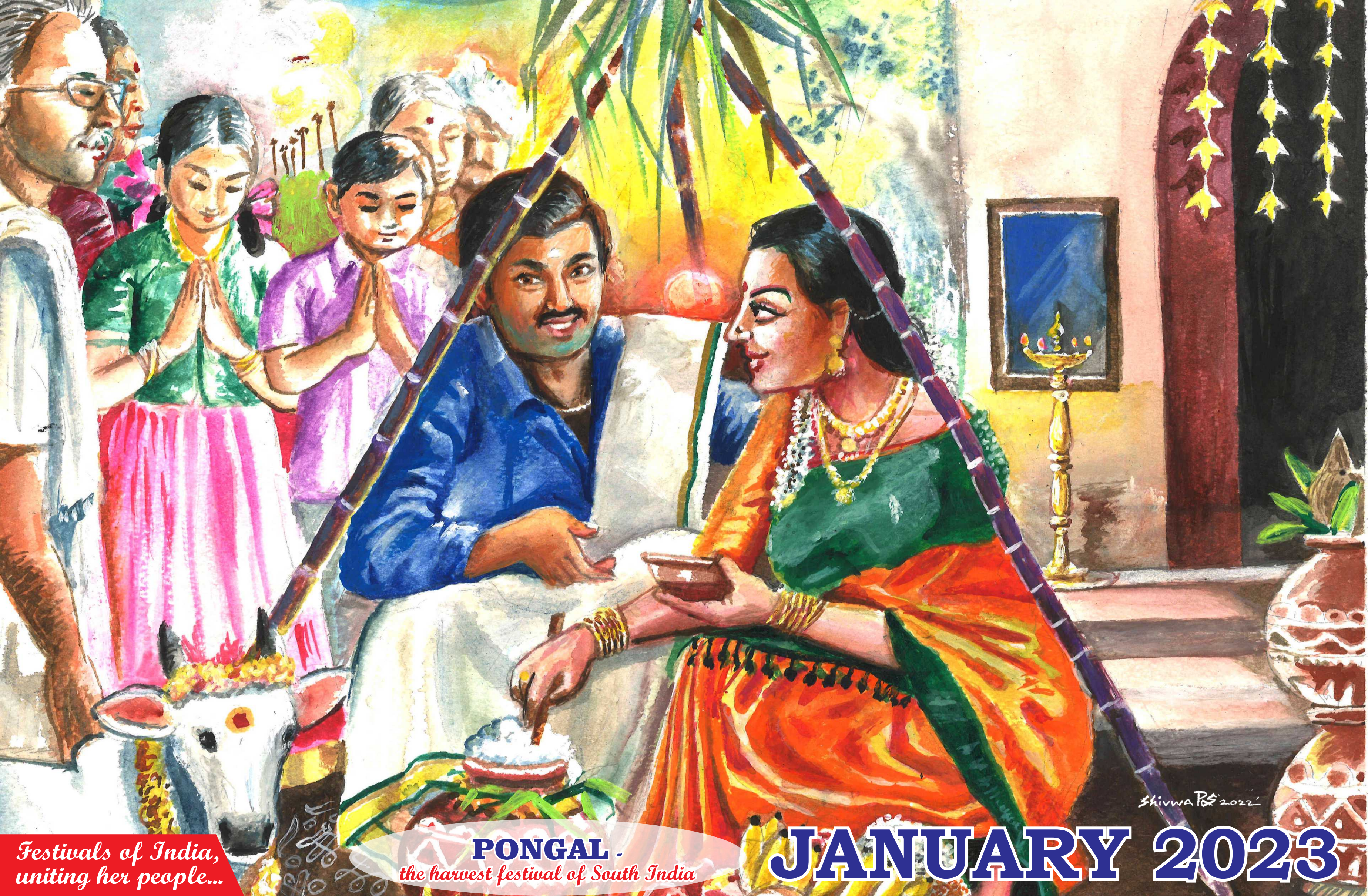
India is a land of varied cultures and festivals that are Religious and secular. Almost everyday throughout the year, there is a festival and subsequent celebrations happening across the country in one place or the other State-wise, Religion-based, Community-wise and language-wise! Through these festivals and celebrations, people from various religions and regions co-exist and live harmoniously.

Among the numerous festivals of India, the most celebrated ones are included in this year's Calendar from January to December 2023. The most exciting and vibrant festivals occur from October to January.

Festivals in India unite her nearly 139 million people. The festivals build up harmony and tolerance crossing the boundaries and barriers. These centuries old festivals with their diversified traditions and rituals make our Nation unique and distinct! This is why we are proud to say that we are an 'old Nation' inspite of being relatively a 'New Country'. We proudly proclaim saying “Incredible India” without ever realizing the 'why' and 'how' of it. The 'unity and brotherhood' that is built up through our festivals and its celebrations are the prime reason for such a proud assertion!

Let these festivals of the New Year 2023 bring in greater unity and camaraderie among us and all the people of India. Let each month usher in such an experience with its festivals rich in tradition and historical perspective.








Festivals of India,
uniting her people...

PONGAL -
the harvest festival of South India

JANUARY 2023

Pongal is the harvest festival celebrated in the month of January to show gratitude for the gifts Mother Nature has bestowed on us. It is celebrated in South India and Sri Lanka, as a time for new beginnings. It marks the end of a cold winter and signals the start of the sun's six-month journey towards the North. The festival is spread over 4 days and this period is referred to as **Uttarayan Punyakalam**. Pongal is thanking the Sun god, the forces of nature, the farm animals and the people who support agriculture. The festival is named after the ceremonial "Pongal", where pongu connotes 'boiling over', or 'overflow' and also refers to the traditional dish prepared from the new harvest of rice boiled in milk with jaggery (raw sugar). It marks the beginning of the Tamil month 'Thai' and hence it is known as '**Thai Pongal**'. The first day of the festivity is called **Bhogi Pongal**, and it marks the last day of the Tamil month Marghazi. On this day people discard old belongings and celebrate new possessions. **Surya Pongal** or Perum Pongal - is the second and main festive day, and is dedicated to the sun god. For some it is the first day of the Tamil calendar month Thai, and coincides with Makara Sankranti - a winter harvest festival celebrated throughout India. **Mattu Pongal** is celebrated the day after Surya Pongal. On this day, cattle are decorated and honoured. Other events during Pongal include community sports and games such as cattle race, '**Jallikattu**'. **Kanum Pongal**, the fourth day of the festival, marks the end of Pongal festivities for the year. The word kanum (kaanum) in this context means "to visit." Many families hold reunions on this day. Communities organize social events to strengthen mutual bonds.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																												
மார்ச்சு 17 New Year Day  1 Mary, Mother of God	2	3 Holy Name of Jesus	4	5	6	7																												
8 Epiphany of the Lord	9 Baptism of the Lord	10	11	12	13 Lohri	14 மார்ச்சு 30 Bhogi Makar Sankranti  St.Devasahayam																												
தை 1 Pongal  15	 16 Thiruvalluvar Day	 17 Uzhavar Thirunaal St.Anthony of Egypt	18	19	20 St.Sebastian	21 St.Agnes																												
22	23	24 Our Lady, Queen of Peace St.Francis de Sales	25 The Conversion of St.Paul	 26 Republic Day Basant Panchami Sts.Timothy & Titus, Apostles	27 St.Angela Merici	28 St.Thomas Aquinas																												
29	30	தை 17 Birth of St.Montfort 31  St.John Bosco																																
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M												
DECEMBER 2022				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
FEBRUARY 2023				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			



MONTFORT COMMUNITY HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

KURAVANKADU, KOMBUTHOOKI PO, YERCAUD TK, SALEM DT - 636601. E-mail: comschoolyercaud@gmail.com





Festivals of India,
uniting her people...

MAHASHIVARATRI
festival of Shiva

FEBRUARY 2023

“The Great Night of Shiva” is the most significant event in India's spiritual calendar. The fourteenth day of every lunar month or the day before the new moon is known as Shivaratri. Among all the twelve Shivaratris that occur in the calendar year, Mahashivaratri, the one that occurs in February-March is of the most spiritual significance. It is a notable festival in Hinduism, and marks the remembrance of "overcoming darkness and ignorance" in life and the world over. Unlike most Hindu festivals which are celebrated during the day, Maha Shivaratri is celebrated at night. Maha means great and rathiri means night. Maha Shivaratri is a solemn event with fasting, meditation on Shiva, self-study, social harmony and an all-night vigil in all Shiva temples. Maha Shivaratri is a national Holiday in Nepal and is celebrated widely in temples all over the country. Another major temple where Shivaratri is celebrated outside India is the Shree Ratneshwar Mahadev Temple in Karachi.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			தை 18 1	2 Presentation of the Lord	3 St.Blaise	4 St.John de Britto
தை 29 5 Thai Poosam St.Agatha	6	7 St.Gonzalo Garcia	8	9	10 St.Scholastica	11 Our Lady of Lourdes
12	13 மாசி 1	14	15	16	17	18 Mahashivaratri St.Kuriakose Elias
19	20 World day of Social Justice	21 St.Peter Damian	22 Ash Wednesday	23 St.Polycarp	24	25 Bl. Rani Maria
26 First Sunday of Lent	27	28 மாசி 16				
Su M T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



MONTFORT COMMUNITY HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL
KURAVANKADU, KOMBUTHOOKI PO, YERCAUD TK, SALEM DT - 636601. E-mail: comschoolercaud@gmail.com





*Festivals of India,
uniting her people...*

Shivwa RS 2022

HOLI
festival of Colours

MARCH 2023

Holi is the festival of colours, the most vibrant spring festival celebrated throughout North India on the full moon day of Phalguna (February-March). It is the festive day to end and rid oneself of past errors, to end conflicts by meeting others, a day to forget and forgive. The first day of Holi is celebrated as Holika Dahan and Chhoti Holi symbolizing the triumph of Lord Vishnu as Narasimha Narayana over Hiranyakashyap. After sunset people gather around the pyre, perform puja (prayers) and then light it. People even sing and dance around the pyre, as it symbolizes the triumph of good over evil. The second day of Holi is called Rangwali Holi, Dhulandi, Phagwah or Badi Holi, when people apply colours to one another, party and enjoy. After playing with colours during the day, they clean up and then go to visit their relatives and friends. Holi is a festival that celebrates colours, happiness, excitement, and most importantly camaraderie. It also welcomes spring and bids farewell to winter. This carnival of colours and festival of brotherhood is a much-awaited festival for Indians both at home and abroad. In Maharashtra, Holi is referred to as 'Rang Panchami', and is popular amongst the fisherfolk. In Uttar Pradesh, it is celebrated in some districts and is popularly called "Lathmar Holi". In Punjab, "Hola Mohalla" is celebrated by Nihang Sikhs a day after Holi and features an exhibition of martial arts, wrestling (khushti), recital of poems and colours. This tradition was started by Guru Gobind Singh in the 18th century. In the state of Bihar, Holi is known as "Phaguwa" and "Dol Yatra" in West Bengal. In Kerala, it is called "Manjul Kuli" and in Manipur, "Yawol Shang".

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 St.David	2	3	4 St.Casimir
5	6	7 Sts.Perpetua and Felicity	Holi Women's Day 8 St.John of God	9	10	11
12	13 St.Euphrsia Eluvathingal	14 St.Matilda	15	16	17 St.Patrick	18 St.Cyril of Jerusalem
19	20 St.Joseph, Husband of Mary	21	Telugu New Year's Day 22 World Water Day	23	24	25 Annunciation of the Lord
26	27	28	29	Ram Navami 30	31 பங்குனி 17	
<div>Su M T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M</div>						
FEBRUARY	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28					
APRIL	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30					







Festivals of India,
uniting her people...

RAMADAN -
month of the Quran

APRIL 2023

Ramadan also spelt Ramazan, Ramzan, Ramadhan or Ramathan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community get-together. A commemoration of Prophet Muhammad's first revelation, the annual observance of Ramadan is regarded as one of the Five Pillars of Islam and lasts twenty-nine to thirty days, from one sighting of the crescent moon to the next. The common practice is to fast from dawn to sunset. The pre-dawn meal before the fast is called the suhur, while the meal at sunset that breaks the fast is called iftar. Ramadan is a time of spiritual reflection, self-improvement and heightened devotion and worship. Muslims believe that Ramadan teaches them to practice self-discipline, self-control, sacrifice, and empathy for those who are less fortunate, thus encouraging actions of generosity and compulsory charity (zakat). They also believe fasting helps to instil compassion for the food-insecure poor. As Islam is widely practised, it is culturally diverse, so the foods taken by the people depend on where they might be from. If there is one food item that could be notably associated with the month of Ramadan, it is 'dates'. It is said that the Prophet Muhammad would break his fast with dates, so it has become quite common for many Muslims of various cultural origins to break their fast with dates.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																											
சித்திரை 17 30						பங்குனி 18 1																											
 2 Palm Sunday	3	Mahavir Jayanthi 4	5 St.Vincent Ferrer	6 Holy Thursday	7  Good Friday	8 Holy Saturday																											
 9 Easter Sunday	10	11 St.Stanislaus	12	பங்குனி 30 13	சித்திரை 1 Tamil New Year / Vaisakhi 14 Dr.B R Ambedkar's Birthday	15																											
16	17	18	19	20	21	Ramzan  22																											
23 St.George	24	25 St.Mark the Evangelist	26 Our Lady of Good Counsel	27	St.Peter Chanel (Priest) 28 St.Louis Grignon de Montfort 	29 St.Catherine of Siena																											
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M				
MARCH			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
MAY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		



MONTFORT COMMUNITY HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL
KURAVANKADU, KOMBUTHOOKI PO, YERCAUD TK, SALEM DT - 636601. E-mail: comschoolyercaud@gmail.com





Festivals of India,
uniting her people...

BUDDHA
PURNIMA

MAY 2023

Among several festivals in India, Buddha Purnima is one of the main festivals during the Vaishakha month, which marks the birth anniversary of Siddhartha Gautama, who later became Gautama Buddha, the originator of Buddhism. Buddha's followers never officially celebrated his birthday. For many centuries, festivals to honor Buddha were held. In fact, the celebration of Buddha Purnima was not formalized until modern times. It was only in May 1950, at the first conference of the World Fellowship of Buddhists in Colombo, that Buddha Purnima was officiated as a celebration during the month of Vesak. It was agreed upon that the day of the full moon in May to be celebrated as Buddha Purnima (due to Buddha attaining nirvana on a full moon day). Also known as Buddha Jayanti or Vaisakhi Buddha Purnima or Vesak, celebrations are held in Sri Lanka, China, Bhutan, Tibet, Nepal and Southeast Asian countries like Thailand, Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Mongolia and Indonesia on this day. The Buddhists visit their temples and light candles and incense sticks. There are also sermons held in the temples to enlighten people on the teachings of Gautam Buddha and his life. His message of compassion and empathy is spread all over again on this auspicious day to remind us the need to live with compassion. One can follow the messages that were given by Gautam Buddha in our lives by leading a life with warmth, kindness and mutual respect.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																													
	சித்திரை 18 May Day <div>1</div> <div></div> <div>St. Joseph, the Worker</div>	2	3 <div>Sts. Philip and James, Apostles</div>	4	Buddha Purnima <div>5</div> <div>St. Angelo</div>	6 <div>St. Dominic Savio</div>																													
7	8	9	10 <div>St. Damien of Molokai</div>	11	12	<div>13</div> <div>Our Lady of Fatima</div>																													
சித்திரை 31 14 <div>St. Mathias, the Apostle</div>	வைகாசி 1 15	<div>16</div> <div>Beatification of Marie-Louise Trichet</div>	17 <div>Our Lady of the way</div>	18	19	20 <div>St. Bernardine of Siena</div>																													
21 <div></div> <div>Ascension of the Lord</div>	22	23	24 <div>Mary, Help of Christians</div>	25	26 <div>St. Philip Neri</div>	27 <div>St. Augustine of Canterbury</div>																													
28 <div>Pentecost</div>	29	30 <div>St. Joan of Arc</div>	வைகாசி 17 31 <div></div> <div>Visitation of the Bl. Virgin Mary</div>																																
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M						
APRIL						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
JUNE					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	



MONTFORT COMMUNITY HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL
KURAVANKADU, KOMBUTHOOKI PO, YERCAUD TK, SALEM DT - 636601. E-mail: comschoolyercaud@gmail.com





Chariots of Shri Jagannath is celebrated every year at Puri, the temple town in Odisha. This festival is known as Ratha Yatra, meaning the journey (yatra) of the chariots (ratha). The Rathas are huge wheeled wooden chariots which are built anew every year and are drawn by multitude of devotees on the bada danda, the grand avenue. The festival commemorates Lord Jagannath's annual visit to Gundicha Temple via Mausī Maa Temple (his maternal aunt's home) near Saradha Bali, Puri. On the way the chariot of Lord Jagannatha, Nandighosa waits near the crematorium of Bhakta Salabega, a Muslim devotee, to pay him tribute. The observance of the Ratha Yatra of Jagannath dates back to the period of the Puranas. Vivid descriptions of this festival are found in Brahma Purana, Padma Purana, and Skanda Purana. The Ratha Yatra festival has become a common sight in most major cities of the world since 1968 through the ISKCON Hare Krishna Movement. A Ratha Yatra has religious origins and meaning, but the events have a major community heritage, social sharing and cultural significance. Western impressions of the Jagannath Ratha Yatra in Puri as a display of unstoppable force is the origin of the English word 'juggernaut'.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																														
				வைகாசி 18 1 St.Justin	2	3																														
4 Holy Trinity	5	6	7	8	9	10																														
St.Barnabas the Apostle 11 The body and blood of Christ	12	St.Antony of Padua  13	14	வைகாசி 32 15	ஆனி 1 16	17																														
18	19	Rath Yatra  20	21 St.Aloysius Gonzaga	22 St.Thomas More	23	24 The Nativity of St.John the Baptist																														
25	26	27 St.Cyril of Alexandria	28 St.Irenaeus	Bakrid  29 Sts.Peter & Paul, Apostles	ஆனி 15 30																															
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M							
MAY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
JULY						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31





*Festivals of India,
uniting her people...*

GURU PURNIMA
festival of Reverence

JULY 2023

Guru Purnima (Poornima) is a tradition dedicated to all the spiritual and academic Gurus, who are evolved or enlightened humans, ready to share their wisdom, based on Karma Yoga. It is celebrated as a festival in India, Nepal, and Bhutan by Hindus, Jains, and Buddhists. This festival is traditionally observed to honour one's chosen spiritual teachers or leaders. It is observed on the Full Moon day (Purnima) in the Hindu month of Ashadha (June-July) as it is known in the Hindu Calendar. The festival was revived by Mahatma Gandhi to pay tribute to his spiritual guru, Shrimad Rajchandra. It is also known as Vyasa Purnima, for it marks the birthday of Ved Vyasa, the sage who authored the Mahabharata and compiled the Vedas. The celebration of Guru Poornima is marked by spiritual activities and may include the ritualistic event, Guru Pooja, in honor of the Guru or teacher. In addition to the religious importance, this festival has great importance for Indian academics and scholars. Indian academics celebrate this day by thanking their teachers and remembering the past Gurus and scholars. Traditionally the festival is celebrated by Buddhists in honor of Buddha who gave his first sermon on this day at Sarnath. In the yogic tradition, the day is celebrated as the occasion when Shiva became the first Guru, as he began the transmission of Yoga to the Saptarishis. In Nepal, Treenok Guha Purnima is a big day in schools and colleges. This day is Teachers' Day for Nepalese. Alumni visit their teachers and present gifts as a gesture of gratitude.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31 St. Ignatius of Loyola Guru Purnima					1
2	3 St. Thomas, the Apostle	4	5 St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria	6 St. Maria Goretti	7	8
9	10	11 St. Benedict	12	13 St. Henry	14	15 St. Bonaventure
16 Our Lady of Mount Carmel	17	18 St. Frederick	19	20	21	22 St. Mary Magdalene
23	24	25 St. James, the Apostle	26 St. Joachim & St. Anne	27	28 St. Alphonsa	29 Muharram St. Martha
Su M T W Th F Sa Su	M T W Th F Sa Su	M T W Th F Sa Su	M T W Th F Sa Su	M T W Th F Sa Su	M T W Th F Sa Su	M T W Th F Sa Su M
JUNE	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
AUGUST	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



MONTFORT COMMUNITY HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL
KURAVANKADU, KOMBUTHOOKI PO, YERCAUD TK, SALEM DT - 636601. E-mail: comschoolyercaud@gmail.com





*Festivals of India,
uniting her people...*

ONAM -
festival of Harvest

AUGUST 2023

Onam is an annual Indian harvest festival celebrated predominantly in Kerala. Farmers reap the sweet fruits of their hard work done throughout the year. A major annual event for Keralites, it is the official festival of the state and includes a spectrum of cultural events. It falls in the month of Chingam, which is the first month of Malayalam Calendar. The celebrations mark the Malayalam New Year and are spread over ten days concluding with 'Thiruvonam'. Onam commemorates Vamana and King Mahabali. According to the legends, Onam is celebrated in remembrance of the good governance under the rule of daitya Mahabali, a mythical king who once ruled Kerala. Though sent down to the underworld by Vamana, he visits his beloved people once a year marking the Onam festival. The celebrations across the state starts off with a grand procession at Thrippunithura near Kochi called Atthachamayam. The parade features decorated elephants marching, drum beats and music with folk art forms, floats and colorfully dressed people with masks. The most important feature of Onam is the floral Rangoli, known as Onapookkalam, Athapookkalam or just Pookkalam. It is an intricate and colourful arrangement of flowers laid on the floor. Women and children dance around the pookalam. The Vallamkali (the snake boat race) is another event that is synonymous with Onam. The Onam sadya (feast) is an indispensable part of Onam and almost every Keralite either makes or attends one. It reflects the spirit of the season and is traditionally made with vegetables such as yam, cucumber, ash gourd, green beans and so on.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
		ആഗ 16 1 St.Alphonsus Liguori	2	3	4 St.John Vianney	5 Dedication of St.Mary Major Basilica																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
6 Transfiguration of the Lord	7	8 St.Dominic	9	10 St.Lawrence	11 St.Clare	12																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
13	14 St.Maximillan Kolbe	Independence Day  15 Assumption of Bl. Virgin Mary	16	ആഗ 32 17	ആവணி 1 18	19 St.John Eudes																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
20	21	22 Queenship of Bl. Virgin Mary	23 St.Rose of Lima	24 St.Bartholomew, the Apostle	25	26																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
27 St.Monica	28 St.Augustine of Hippo	Onam  29 Matyrdom of St.John the Baptist	Raksha Bandhan 30	ആവணி 14 31																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
	Su M T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M T W Th F Sa Su M																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
JULY																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									</



MONTFORT COMMUNITY HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL
KURAVANKADU, KOMBUTHOOKI PO, YERCAUD TK, SALEM DT - 636601. E-mail: comschoolyercaud@gmail.com





*Festivals of India,
uniting her people...*

GANESH CHATURTHI
festival of Hope and Prosperity

SEPTEMBER 2023

Ganesh Chaturthi also known as **Vinayaka Chaturthi** celebrates Lord Ganesha as the god of new beginning and the remover of obstacles as well as the god of wisdom and intelligence. It is observed throughout India and also in Nepal and by the Hindu diaspora across the globe. Lord Ganesha was considered to be the Kuladevata (family deity) of Chathrapathi Shivaji who celebrated it with pomp and glory in 1600 AD for the first time. However with the passage of time, the festival lost its significance but was revived and transformed from a private celebration into a grand public event in the 19th century by Indian freedom fighter **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** to unite people from all walks of life. The festival begins with the installation of beautifully crafted statues of Ganesha in pandals and mandaps in homes or shops. Prayers, devotional chantings and food offerings (usually coconut, jaggery and modaks – a sweet believed to be Ganesha's favourite food) are offered to the idol for 10 days. On the last day of the festival, Anant Chaturdashi, the statues are paraded through the streets amidst singing and dancing, and immersed in the ocean or other water bodies. The immersion of the statues and their subsequent destruction reinforces the belief that the universe is in a constant state of change, giving way to formlessness. The act of immersion also denotes the circle of life.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																										
					ஆவணி 15 1	2																										
3 St.Gregory the Great	4	Teachers Day  5 St.Teresa of Kolkata	Krishna Jayanthi  6	Janmashtami 7	8 Nativity of the Bl. Virgin Mary	9 St.Peter Claver																										
10	11	12 Holy name of Mary	13 St.John Chrysostom	14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross	15 Our Lady of Sorrows	16 St.Cornelius & St.Cyprian																										
ஆவணி 31 17 St.Robert Bellarmine	புரட்டாசி 1  18 Vinayakar Chaturthi	19 St.Januarius	20	21 St.Matthew, the Apostle	22	23 St.Padre Pio																										
24 Our Lady of Ransom	25	26 St.Cosmas and St.Damian	27 St.Vincent de Paul	Milad-un-Nabi  28	29 Sts.Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels	புரட்டாசி 13 30 St.Jerome																										
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M			
AUGUST		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
OCTOBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	



MONTFORT COMMUNITY HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

KURAVANKADU, KOMBUTHOOKI PO, YERCAUD TK, SALEM DT - 636601. E-mail: comschoolyercaud@gmail.com





*Festivals of India,
uniting her people...*

DUSSEHRA -
festival of Victory over evil

OCTOBER 2023

This beautiful festival of Dussehra or Vijayadashmi, “The Day of Victory” is celebrated on the final day of Navratri. Dussehra signifies the victory of good over evil. It is commemorated to mark the triumph of Lord Rama over king Ravana and also the victory of Maa Durga over the demon Mahishasura. The festival also marks the day when the Pandavas came home after their 13-year exile. In northern India, the depiction of Lord Rama's life in Ram Leela begins ten days before the Dussehra festival. Huge effigies of Ravana, Meghnath, and Kumbhakarna are lit in the Ram Leela Maidan amidst the carnival-like atmosphere. In South India, Dussehra celebrations begin nine days before Dussehra. These nine holy days are dedicated to the worship of three main deities of Hinduism. Goddess Lakshmi is worshipped during the first three days. She is called the goddess of wealth and prosperity. Saraswati is prayed for the next three days, who is called the goddess of knowledge and art. The last three days are dedicated to the reverence of goddess Durga known as Shakti. In Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, miniature statues and beautiful tableaux of dolls are set up in homes, known as 'Bommai Kolu'. In the eastern part of India, Dussehra is celebrated as the victory of goddess Durga over the mighty satan Mahishasura. Durga subdued and killed the demon after battling for nine days. This day is celebrated as 'Vijayadashmi'. On this day, idols of goddess Durga are immersed in rivers and seas with great reverence and pomp. Mysore Dussehra has the status of being the most spectacular Dussehra celebration in the country.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
புரட்டாசி 14 1 St. Theresa of Child Jesus	Gandhi Jayanthi  2 Guardian Angels	3 National Day - Fiji	 4 St. Francis of Assisi	5 St. Faustina of the Bl. Sacrament	6	7 Our Lady of Rosary
8	9	10	11 St. John XXIII	12 Our Lady of Pillar	13	14
15 St. Theresa of Avila	16	புரட்டாசி 30 17 St. Ignatius of Antioch	ஐப்பசி 1 18 St. Luke, the Evangelist	19	20 St. Paul of the Cross	21
22 St. Pope John Paul II	Ayutha Pooja 23	Dussehra Vijayadashmi  24 St. Anthony Mary Claret	25	26	27	28 Sts. Simon & Jude, Apostles
29	30	ஐப்பசி 14 31				

	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M
SEPTEMBER						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
NOVEMBER				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				



MONTFORT COMMUNITY HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

KURAVANKADU, KOMBUTHOOKI PO, YERCAUD TK, SALEM DT - 636601. E-mail: comschoolyercaud@gmail.com





Deepavali or Diwali is India's much awaited festival of the year and is known for the brightly burning clay lamps that celebrants line up outside their homes. The festival is widely associated with Lakshmi, goddess of prosperity and Ganesha, god of wisdom and the remover of obstacles, with many other regional traditions. It is also a celebration of Rama's return to his kingdom in Ayodhya with Sita and brother Lakshmana after defeating Ravana and serving 14 years of exile. People of other faiths in India also celebrate their respective festivals alongside Diwali. The Jains observe their own Diwali which marks the final liberation of Mahavira, the Sikhs celebrate 'Bandi Chhor Divas' to mark the release of Guru Hargobind from a Mughal prison, while Newar Buddhists, celebrate Diwali by worshipping Lakshmi. The first day of the festival, Naraka Chaturdasi marks the vanquishing of the demon Naraka by Lord Krishna and his wife Sathyabhama. Amavasya, the second day of Deepavali, marks the worship of Lakshmi when she is in her most benevolent mood, fulfilling the wishes of her devotees. It also tells the story of Lord Vishnu who, vanquished the tyrant Bali and banished him to hell. Bali is allowed to return to earth once a year to light millions of lamps and dispel darkness and ignorance while spreading the radiance of love and wisdom. It is on the third day of Kartika Shudda Padyami, Bali steps out of hell and rules the earth according to the boon given by Lord Vishnu. The fourth day is referred to as Yama Dvitiya and on this day sisters invite their brothers to their homes. Homes are illuminated with lights, and firecrackers fill the skies as an expression of respect to the heavens for the attainment of health, wealth, knowledge, peace, and prosperity. Deepavali is all about new beginning and light over darkness!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																													
			ஐப்பசி 15 1 All Saints Day	2 All Souls Day	3 St.Martin de Porres	4 St.Charles Borromeo																													
5	6	7 Mary, Mother & Mediatrix of grace Childrens Day	8	9 Dedication of the Latern Basilica	10 St.Leo the Great	11 St.Martin of Tours																													
Diwali 12 	13	 14	15	ஐப்பசி 30 16	கார்த்திகை 1 17	 18 Dedication of the Church of Sts.Peter & Paul																													
19	20	21 Presentation of the Bl. Virgin Mary	22 St.Cecilia	23	24	25 St.Catherine of Alexandria																													
26 Christ the King	27	28	29	கார்த்திகை 14 30 St.Andrew, the Apostle																															
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M													
OCTOBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
DECEMBER					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



MONTFORT COMMUNITY HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL
KURAVANKADU, KOMBUTHOOKI PO, YERCAUD TK, SALEM DT - 636601. E-mail: comschoolyercaud@gmail.com





Festivals of India,
uniting her people...

shivwa R 2022

CHRISTMAS
festival of Hope, Joy, Love and Peace

DECEMBER 2023

Christmas is a universal spiritual event and festival. This word Christmas is a combination of Christ and his mass or sacrifice. It marks the birth of Christ, the son of God in accordance with the messianic prophecies as a human being through his earthly mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary with the power of God (The Holy Spirit). Christmas is celebrated by all the people around the World with religious fervour whether they are Christians or not! Denoting Christmas as 'Xmas' is a pagan practice! The Christmas event is preceded by the season of Advent, during which the Christians undertake fasting and abstinence for four weeks and with 'expectations' they prepare themselves to receive the Messiah who will bring joy, peace and love. In Spanish, it is Navidad, in Italian it is Natale and Noel in French, all of them denoting 'nativity' (birth). December 25 as the birth date of Jesus was first identified by Sextus Julius Africanus in 221, probably to fall in line with the birthday of the unconquered SUN god a popular holiday in Roman Empire marking the resurgence of the sun casting away of winter and heralding the rebirth of spring and summer. Another reason could be a priori reasoning that the spring equinox is the date of creation of the world (along with the sun, moon and the stars) on the 4th day (Gen 1/14-19). This day is considered as the date of Jesus conception (March 25). December 25 will be 9 months later and thus became the date of Jesus's birth. Usually the event is commemorated in Churches with special prayers at night. A few other Churches celebrate it on 24th evening with candle light service. Christmas is also associated with 'Santa Claus' alias **St.Nicholas**. He was a Bishop in Myra, Turkey, who lived in the fourth century. It is said that he helped a poor man to get his two daughters married one after the other by secretly dropping a bag of gold each into their stockings to pay their dowry. This story has come down to us with a lot of legendary modifications wherein St.Nicholas has become the 'gift giver' at Christmas denoting '**Christ child**', also called Father Christmas and Christkind. As years passed by, St.Nicholas became 'Sinterklaas' or as we know now 'Santa Claus'. He is described as chubby and plump, a jolly old 'elf' coming with a miniature 'sleigh' loaded with gifts drawn by eight to ten tiny rein-deers. Hundreds of songs celebrate 'Santa Claus' and '**Rudolph the red nosed reindeer**' being the most popular one.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																										
மார்ச்சு 15 31 Holy Family First Sunday of Advent					கார்த்திகை 15 1	2																										
3 St.Francis Xavier	4	5	6 St.Nicholas	7 St.Ambrose	8 The Immaculate Conception	9																										
10	11	12 Our Lady of Guadalupe	13 St.Lucy	14 St.John of the Cross	15	16 கார்த்திகை 30																										
மார்ச்சு 1 17	18	19	20	21 St.Peter Canisius	22	23																										
24	25 Christmas	26 St.Stephen	27 St.John. the Apostle	28 Death of Fr.Gabriel Deshayes	29 St.Thomas Becket	30																										
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M										
NOVEMBER			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
JANUARY 2024	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	



MONTFORT COMMUNITY HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL
KURAVANKADU, KOMBUTHOOKI PO, YERCAUD TK, SALEM DT - 636601. E-mail: comschoolyercaud@gmail.com

