Celebrations, Holidays, & Traditions for May 2008

May 1:

**May Day:** (Belgium and others) - marks the end of the uncomfortable winter half of the year in the Northern hemisphere, and it has traditionally been an occasion for popular and often raucous celebrations, regardless of the locally prevalent political or religious establishments. OR - commemorates the historic struggle of working people throughout the world, and is recognized in every country except the United States, Canada, and South Africa.

**Ascension:** (Austria and others) - marks the day when Jesus Christ ascended up into Heaven. It was 40 days after his resurrection from the dead, which was on Easter Sunday (in A.D. 30).

**Labour Day:** (Argentina, Egypt) - an annual holiday celebrated all over the world that resulted from efforts of the labour union movement, to celebrate the economic and social achievements of workers.

**Worker’s Day:** (Mozambique, Namibia) - a day to celebrate the labor of the people in most African countries.

**State Holiday:** (Poland) - This holiday is intentionally not called Labour Day; Poland once celebrated Labour Day.

May 2:

**Labour Day Holiday** - (China and others) - celebrated for an entire week referred to as Golden Week on the Chinese calendar. May 2-6, 2008.

**Labour Day Bridge Holiday** - (Bulgaria and others) - the government of Bulgaria has declared 2 public bridge holidays, one on May 2 and one on May 5. The declaration of these bridge holidays when combined with the Labor Day public holiday, the St. George/Army Day public holiday the next few days including the weekend, means that Bulgaria will enjoy six consecutive holidays.

**May Day** - (Serbia, Slovenia)

**Community Day** - (Spain)

**Yom HaSho’ah:** (Jewish) - a day established to remember the six million Jews killed by the Nazis in 1933-45; also observed by many non-Jews as well.
May 3:

Constitution Day: (Japan and others)- a holiday to honor the constitution (monarchy) of the country. (Japan is a constitutional monarchy).

May 4:

Greenery Day: (Japan)- a Japanese holiday, the birthday of Hirohito, the Shōwa Emperor. The Showa Emperor reigned for 62 years and 2 weeks. On May 3, 1947, he became a symbol of Japan by the new constitution of the country.

Independence Restoration Day: (Latvia)- On May 4, 1990 the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian SSR (the highest legislative institution in occupied Latvia) passed a Declaration on the Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia and instituted a transitional period until full independence was regained.

Martyrs’ Day: (Lebanon)- great glorification of patriotic beliefs and real pride in national affiliation.

Mother’s Day: (Lithuania)- a day to honor mothers, celebrated on various days in many places around the world.

Rememberance Day: (Netherlands)- commemorates all civilians and members of the armed forces of the Kingdom of the Netherlands who have died in wars or peacekeeping missions since the outbreak of the Second World War.

May 5:

Labour Day: (Antigua and others)- an annual holiday celebrated all over the world that resulted from efforts of the labour union movement, to celebrate the economic and social achievements of workers.

St. George’s Day Bridge Holiday: (Bulgaria)-not an official holiday in England.

Patriot’s Day: (Ethiopia)- celebrates end of the Italian occupation in 1941.

May Day Bank Holiday: (Ireland, United Kingdom)-an official holiday to celebrate a public holiday in the United Kingdom and also in the Republic of Ireland. Although there is no legal right to time off on these days, the majority of the population not employed in essential services (e.g. utilities, fire, ambulance, police, healthcare workers) receive them as holidays; those employed in essential services usually receive extra pay for working on these days.
**Arrival Day:** (Guyana) - not yet declared a public holiday; celebrated to mark the arrival of Indians to the Caribbean nation 166 years ago.

**May 6:**

**Commemoration Day:** (Belarus)

**Greenery Day:** (Japan) - a Japanese holiday, the birthday of Hirohito, the Shôwa Emperor. The Showa Emperor reigned for 62 years and 2 weeks. On May 3, 1947, he became a symbol of Japan by the new constitution of the country.

**Martyrs’ Day:** (Syria) - marks the Turkish occupation hanging Syrian and Lebanese patriots in Beirut and Damascus on May 6, 1916.

**May 8:**

**Liberation Day:** (Czech Republic) - the end of European part of the World War II.

**Victory Day:** (France and others) - it's commemorates the World War-II victory of the Allied Powers. This Day is celebrated with great fervor and all pay homage to the selfless sacrifice of the brave souls.

**Yom Ha’Atzmaut:** (Jewish) - commemorates the declaration of independence of Israel in 1948.

**May 9:**

**Victory Day:** (Russia) - a day Russians celebrate "victory" over the fascists in WWII.

**Liberation Day:** (Guernsey) - a national holiday in Guernsey, celebrated on May 9, 1945, the day when the island was liberated from the occupying forces of Nazi.

**May 10:**

**Mother’s Day:** (Mexico) - a day to celebrate mothers

**Constitution Day:** (Micronesia) - a day to celebrate the constitution in Micronesia

**May 11:**

**Mother’s Day:** (US, Germany) - a day for celebrating mothers.
**Whit Sunday (Pentecost)**- Austria, Norway, and others)- one of the prominent feasts in the Christian liturgical year, celebrated the fiftieth day after Easter Sunday; commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus as described in the Book of Acts, Chapter 2.

**Resistance and Liberation Day**: (Lebanon)

**May 12:**

**Whit Monday: (Germany and others)**- the holiday celebrated the day after Pentecost, a moveable feast in the Christian calendar. It is movable because it is determined by the date of Easter.

**Buddha Day: (Hong Kong)**- the birthday of the Gautama Buddha traditionally celebrated in East Asia on the eighth day of the fourth month in the Chinese lunar calendar, is an official holiday in Hong Kong.

**Aso ote Tala Lei(Gospel Day): (Tuvalu)**

**Mother’s Day Holiday: (Samoa)**- a day Samoans celebrate mothers.

**St. Andrew’s Day: (Georgia)**- celebration of day of Apostle Andrew 'first-called', founder of Georgian Orthodox Church.

**May 13:**

**King’s Birthday: (Cambodia)**- a 3 day celebration to commemorate the king of Cambodia.

**May 14:**

**Zhabdrung Kuchoe- (Bhutan)**-

**Unification Day: (Liberia)**- dedication to the National Unification Party.

**Kamuzu Day: (Malawi)**- a day to commemorate the country’s first president the late Dr. Kamuzu.
May 15:

**Independence Day**: (Paraguay)- day that Paraguay achieved independence from Spain in 1811.

**San Isidro**: (Spain)- the patron saint of the peasants and is also the patron saint of the capital city of Spain, Madrid. On the day of the saint, the people of Madrid actively participate in a pilgrimage to San Isidro's meadow to celebrate his day and to drink the holy water of his fountain.

May 16:

**SPLA Day**: (Sudan)- commemorates the Sudan’s People Liberation Army that began in 1983.

May 17:

**Liberation Day**: (Congo, Dem. Rep.)- marks the liberation of Congo and Dem. Republic.

**Constitution Day**: (Norway)- the day the Norwegians got their constitution. Denmark and Sweden had always been the more powerful of the Scandinavian countries, and both had earlier ruled Norway.

May 18:

**Flag and University Day**: (Haiti)

**Kason Full Moon (Buddha Day)**: (Myanmar)- in Myanmar calendar is called “Kason” and Burmese celebrate one of the most religious and historically significant events on Kason full moon day; **Kason full moon day** is signified by four most important days in Lord Buddha life time: the day he had been prophesied to become the next Buddha, the day Lord Buddha was born, the day he achieved Enlightenment and the day he entered Parinirvana.

**Battle of Las Piedras Day**: (Uruguay)- anniversary of the end of the conflict between Uruguay and Brazil in 1828.

**Trinity Sunday**: (Christian)- celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, the three Persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
May 19:

**Buddha Day:** (Cambodia and others)- commemorates Lord Buddha's grace and merit upon us; major Buddhist ceremony of the year as it celebrates the birth, enlightenment and passing to Nivarna of Lord Buddha on one day, the first full moon day in May.

**Victoria Day:** (Canada)- a Canadian statutory holiday celebrated on the last Monday before or on May 24 in honour of both Queen Victoris’s birthday and the current reigning Canadian sovereign’s birthday.

**Praia Municipal Day:** (Cape Verde)

**Discovery Day:** (Cayman Islands)- commemorates the discovery of the Cayman Islands by Christopher Columbus in 1503.

**Waisak Holiday:** (Indonesia)- "Vesaks Day" a national holiday in Indonesia.

**Ataturk Day/Youth & Sports Day:** (Turkey)- a holiday dedicated to the youth of the country.

May 20:

**National Day:** (Cameroon)- a holiday in Cameroon celebrated on May 20. Cameroon has no single date of independence. The United Nations Trust Territory known as French Cameroun achieved independence from France on January 1, 1960, and British Southern Cameroons changed status from a Trusteeship under British administration to a federated state within Cameroon on October 1, 1961. The government chose May 20 as Cameroon's National Day to commemorate President Ahmadou Ahidjo’s abolishment of the federal system of government and creation of a unitary state in 1972.

**Independence Restoration Day:** (East Timor)-anniversary of transfer of sovereignty from the United Nations transitional government, 2002.

May 21:

**Navy Day:** (Chile)- a public holiday in Chile on May 21. It commemorates the Iquique Naval Combat on May 21, 1879, in the War of the Pacific.

**Independence Day:** (Montenegro)-commemorates the Independence from State union with Serbia, in 2006.

**St. Helena Day:** (St. Helena)
May 22:

*Corpus Christi Day:* (Switzerland and others)- a Christian feast in honor of the Holy Eucharist.

*Abolition Day:* (Martinique)- celebrates the 153nd anniversary of the abolition of slavery in Fort-de France and throughout island.

*Unification Day:* (Yemen)

May 23:

*Royal Ploughing Day:* (Cambodia)

*Labour Day:* (Jamaica)

*Declaration of the Bab:* (Baha’i)- the anniversary of the message and Declaration of the Báb and a blessed day of the manifestation, for the appearance of the Báb.

May 24:

*Bermuda Day:* day began in Britain in 1902 as the celebration of the birthday of Queen Empress Victoria.

*Culture and Literacy Day:* (Bulgaria)- celebration of “Day of Slavic Alphabet and Culture.” The day may also be called "Methodius Day", "Sts. Cyril & Methodius Day", "Day of Culture and Literacy" or "Alphabet Day". All over the country schools are decorated with flowers and portraits of the brothers St. Cyril and St. Methodius in gratitude for the treasure of letters so suitable for the pronunciation of the Bulgarian language.

*Battle of Pichincha Holiday:* (Ecuador)- took place on May 24, 1822, on the slopes of the Pichincha volcano, right next to the city of Quito, in modern Ecuador.

*Lubiri Memorial Day:* (Uganda)

May 25:

*Africa Day:* (Chad and others)- anniversary of the formation of the Organization of African Unity in 1963.

*First Government Day:* (Argentina)- the anniversary of the first national government in Argentina upon obtaining their independence from Spain.
Independence Day: (Jordan)- the 58th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Hashmite Kingdom of Jordan. His late Majesty King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, the founder, launched a strenuous struggle, with the Jordanian cavaliers to steadfastly imprint this remarkable day in the history of the nation.

May 26:

Memorial Day: (United States and others)-a federal holiday that is observed on the last Monday of May (observed in 2008 on May 26). It was formerly known as Decoration Day. This holiday commemorates U.S. men and women who have died in military service to their country.

Bermuda Day: (Bermuda)- the first day that local residents will go into the sea. Traditionally, it is also the first day on which Bermuda shorts are worn as business attire. There are parades and a road races from the west end of the island into Hamilton.

Corpus Christi: (Colombia)

May 27:

Abolition Day: (Guadeloupe)-a day to commemorate the end of slavery in Guadeloupe.

May 28:

Republic Day: (Armenia)- establishment of the Democratic Republic of Armenia.

Dergue Downfall Day: (Ethiopia)- a national holiday to commemorate the day the EPRDF (Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front) took over Addis Ababa on May 28, 1991. There are parades and popular demonstrations in major towns.

May 29:

Democracy Day: (Nigeria)- a public holiday to commemorate the return of democracy in Nigeria in 1999.

Ascension of Baha’u’llah- the anniversary of the Prophet-Founder of the Baha'i Faith. This day is one of nine holy days in which Baha'is suspend work and school.
May 30:

**Queen’s Day:** (Aruba)- official holiday in honor of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. Official ceremonies include kite contest, sporting events, parades with national music, and other events throughout the island.

**Valborg’s Eve:** (Sweden)-

May 31:

**Armed Forces Day:** (Brunei)- a celebration formed on May 31, 1961 that takes place at the Taman Haji Sir Omar Ali Saiffudden, the heart of the city, consisting of a military parades and parachute shows or battle demonstrations.

**Umuganda Day:** (Rwanda)- a day the Rwandan population commemorates environmental protection by planting and conserving the trees.

**Lag B’Omer:** (Jewish)- a celebrated Jewish holiday; it is the shorthand way of saying the thirty-third day of the Omer.