MEMORANDUM

To: Deans, Department Chairs, Directors and Colleagues
From: Kathy Schnurr, Chaplain
Date: July 2019
Re: Religious Holy Days

As the 2019-2020 academic year draws near, I would like to bring to your attention some of the major religious holidays and holy days that will impact many of our students, faculty, and staff. Please note that this is not an all-encompassing list for every religious tradition. A longer list is available on our web site at www.jhu.edu/chaplain. The holidays listed below are those that will not only affect many of our students at some point in the academic year, but could present a clear conflict with academic demands.

In general, food or work restrictions, as well as special worship obligations may impact the ability of our students, faculty and staff to participate in university events that take place on their respective religious holy day. Please keep in mind that some observances require additional time for preparation or travel before and after the actual holy day. I am asking that you please be responsive to requests from students who need to make advance arrangements with you to make up work missed because of a holy observance. If you have any questions regarding a particular case or would like any guidance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 410-516-1880 or kschnurr@jhu.edu. Thank you for your sensitivity to this matter.

BUDDHIST
Bodhi Day December 8, 2019
Buddha’s Birthday April 8, 2020
Vesak May 7, 2020

CHRISTIAN
Christmas (Orthodox) January 7, 2020
Ash Wednesday February 26, 2020
Good Friday April 10, 2020
Easter (Western) April 12, 2020
Easter (Orthodox) April 19, 2020

HINDU
Diwali October 24 - 29, 2019 (New Moon Day is celebrated October 27th)
Holi March 9 – 10, 2020

JEWISH (Jewish holy days and religious festivals begin at sunset the evening preceding the first date).
Rosh Hashanah September 30 – October 1, 2019
Yom Kippur October 9, 2019
Sukkot October 14 – 20, 2019
Sh’mi Atzeret October 21, 2019
Simchat Torah October 22, 2019
Hanukkah December 23 – 30, 2019
Pesach (Passover) April 9 – April 16, 2020 (the first and last two days of the week)
Shavuot May 29 – 30, 2020

MUSLIM (Muslim holy days are based on a lunar calendar, and the actual dates are determined by direct observation of the moon and announced by the local mosque. The dates listed below may vary by a day or two).
Eid-al-Adha August 10 – August 12, 2019
Ramadan April 23 – May 23, 2020
Eid-al-Fitr May 24, 2020