

12th April 2020

VAISAKHI 2020: SPIRIT OF THE KHALSA

Waheguru ji ka Khalsa, Waheguru ji ki Fateh

The Sikh faith has its foundation in Guru Sahib's core message to the individual; to keep a conscious mental and physical discipline, and to focus in humility on the divine power (Naam Simran). This includes instructions for like-minded Gursikhs to assemble as Sangat, to make collective prayer and take collective community action for the greater good of all (Sarbat da Bhalla).

Physical collective prayer and celebration is clearly not an option this Vaisakhi, but the virtual congregations being created by Gurdwara Sahibs for everyone observing the stay home message is a wonderful way to remain connected and to celebrate collective prayer.

Vaisakhi 1699 brought the two elements fully together: the Panj Piyaare (5 beloved disciples) were initiated into the collective might of the Khalsa (pure of heart) to stand powerfully against tyranny and yet humbly in service of humanity and fairness.

As we endure a worldwide pandemic together, the power of individual effort and collective action has become a voice for positive change in the face of so much pain and anxiety. This is the spirit of Chardhi Kalla (persistent optimism) that Guru Sahibs displayed and urged on humankind - in the face of good times and bad - for us all to assemble our positive acts as individuals and then as collectives to triumph over adversity.

Vaisakhi 2020 will clearly be remembered by history for its adversities. However, it has also galvanised many individuals and organisations, ready to give the best of themselves for the good of all. This has been most prominent in the courageous dedication of all keyworkers, in particular the NHS doctors and nurses, but also others on the frontlines as volunteers distributing food and comfort to those in need and less fortunate. Our aim at Sikh Assembly is to celebrate all individuals and organisations that come together in this positive spirit.

May the world achieve good health, peace and compassion for all in the coming days of religious prayer and celebration, for all Sikhs through Vaisakhi, Christians through Easter and Jews through Passover.

For all Sikhs the Aadesh (message) from our Father, Guru Gobind Singh ji, is to remain steadfast in our faith and courageous in our valour to always pray for all humanity.

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