



Evening sky in March 2011

On 21 March the Sun crosses the equator (vernal equinox - the start of autumn in the Southern Hemisphere). It rises further to the North every day until 21 June (solstice) when it starts to make its way southward again. The constellations slowly shift with the seasons; Orion can be seen setting earlier until it disappears in the evening twilight by May. Find its three Belt stars to the northwest, and below it, the red giant star, Aldebaran, the eye of Taurus, the Bull. Towards the East bright Regulus marks the heart of Leo, the Lion. Between the Bull and the Lion are the bright stars, Castor and Pollux, jewels hanging on the necks of the Twins (Gemini). Above the Twins are Orion's two dogs. Bright Procyon is in the Little Dog and higher still is Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky, in the Big Dog. Canopus (second brightest) and Achernar (fourth brightest) can be seen to the southwest. The Southern Cross (Crux) and Pointers is halfway up above the southeast horizon.

Planet Saturn is in Virgo.

The Moon is in the evening sky from 9 March to 23 March.