



Mangala Vihara (Buddhist Temple)

(Founded 1st May 1960)

Founder: Late Ven M.M. Mahaweera Maha Nayaka Thera

Resident Monk: Ven U Cittara

27 June 2010

To: All Members and Devotees

VASSA INVITATION ON FULL MOON DAY OF JULY (MONDAY, 26 JULY 2010)

The Vassana is a period of the Theravada Buddhist Monks' 'retreat' that originated during Lord Buddha's time, more than 2,500 years ago when transportation, communication and living conditions were still primitive. Then and as now, India suffers from heavy rainfalls caused by monsoons, making it difficult for monks to travel from one village to another to preach, seek alms or live in the jungle to meditate. Therefore, kings and lay people invited the monks to live and preach in the palaces, houses and monasteries while they looked after the monks' needs.

As a Theravada Buddhist temple, it is our duty to invite the Venerable Monks to spend their retreat in our temple to observe the Vassavasa for three months – for the period from 26 July 2010 to 22 October 2010.

Mr Johnny Ong & Mdm Maureen Hui have been nominated by the Management Committee to perform the customary ceremony of inviting our Venerable Sirs to observe Vassavasa in the temple on behalf of all members and devotees on the Full Moon, 26 July 2010.

KATHINA DAY – SUNDAY 24 OCTOBER 2010

After the Vassana, a day is selected within the month to celebrate Kathina, a ceremony that members and devotees offer the Kathina Robe and other gifts to the Maha Sangha. Buddhists attach great significance to this celebration. 'To care for the needs of the Bhikkhus' is a meritorious deed. Kathina will be celebrated on Sunday, 24 October 2010.

APPEAL FOR VOLUNTARY DONATIONS TO CELEBRATE KATHINA ON SUNDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2010

We appeal to your generosity for funds to celebrate Kathina upon the successful completion of the observation of Vassavasa. Donations can be forwarded to the Treasurer's office. Payment can be made by crossed cheque payable to MANGALA VIHARA (BUDDHIST TEMPLE). **DO NOT SEND CASH IN THE MAIL.**

You may also order Kathina robe in a separate form with the Hon. Treasurer.

MAY YOU AND YOUR FAMILY BE WELL AND HAPPY

Issued by:
Management Committee
2010 / 2011

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KATHINA ROBES OFFERING

What is so special about Kathina robes?

Kathina robes are offered to the Sangha in a monastery only once a year and during a specified period, which starts from the end of Vassa to the next full moon day. In other words, Kathina robes can be offered between the days following the full moon of October to the full moon of November. Kathina robes are offered to the Sangha, and not to any individual monk. Thus, the offering of Kathina robes to the Sangha is indeed a very rare opportunity.

When we say “I offer this robe to the Sangha”, we mean all the Sangha or the community of Bhikkhus in the world. This includes not only those who have gained enlightenment and but also those on the path to be enlightened. Sangha means the community of monks which must consist of a group of at least four monks. When you offer the Kathina robes, you are offering them to the Sangha; that means all noble disciples of the Buddha – not only the Enlightened Ones.