



## **Mangala Vihara (Buddhist Temple)**

(Founded 1<sup>st</sup> May 1960)

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

Resident Monk: Ven U Cittara

19 June 2011

To: All Members and Devotees

### **VASSA INVITATION ON FULL MOON DAY OF JULY (FRIDAY, 15 JULY 2011)**

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 15 July 2011 to 11 October 2011.

**Mr Philip Chan** 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, 15 July 2011.

### **KATHINA DAY – SUNDAY 16 OCTOBER 2011**

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, 16 October 2011.

### **APPEAL FOR VOLUNTARY DONATIONS TO CELEBRATE KATHINA ON SUNDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2011**

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 robes in a separate form with the Hon. Treasurer.

**MAY YOU AND YOUR FAMILY BE WELL AND HAPPY**

Issued by:  
Management Committee  
2011 / 2012

**30 Jalan Eunos, Singapore 419495    Tel: (65) 67444285    Fax: (65) 67441912**  
**Website: [www.mangalavihara.org.sg](http://www.mangalavihara.org.sg)    Email: [resident\\_monk@mangalavihara.org.sg](mailto:resident_monk@mangalavihara.org.sg)**

## **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.

## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT – CHANTING PRACTICES DURING VASSANA PERIOD**

To know the Dhamma alone is not sufficient; one must increase one's wisdom and understanding. Learn not only to recite the Suttas / Parittas, but also the meanings and why we chant them are for your benefit. Come, bring your friends, to join us in the Chanting Classes.

### **CHANTING CLASSES FOR 2011** **COMMENCING ON MONDAY, 18 JULY 2011**

Time : 7.45 pm till 9.30 pm (Mondays to Fridays)

Monday **Path of Emancipation (For Beginners)**

- Conducted by Mrs Michelle Chan / explanation by Bhante Cittara
- Mandarin class conducted by Ms Chiang Yuh Fang / explanation by Ms Cheong Beng Khim

Tuesday **Big Suttas Part 1 & 2** - by Mr Steven Lee Hong Keng

Wednesday **Big Suttas Part 3 & 4** - by Mr Lim Ah Swan

Wednesday **Mirror of Dhamma** – by Bhante Acara/Bhante Seelananda

Friday **Big Suttas** - revision & explanation by Mr Siri Lim

Saturday **Abhidhamma Chanting – Paccaya Niddesa** \*  
by Bhante Cittara / Bhante Acara / Bhante Raja on 24 Paccayas  
at **5.00 pm to 6.30 pm**

Sunday **Maranasati** (12.45 pm to 1.30 pm) - by Mr Siri Lim  
These are the Suttas recited during night visit at the wakes

- Mandarin class by Ms Cheong Beng Khim / Mdm Lim Poh Tin

**\* The Abhidhamma will be recited at the full-moon day, Thurs, 11 October 2011. At the end of Vas, we celebrate Abhidhamma Day.**

**The above chanting practices will be conducted regularly until early December 2011.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME.**

## **The Benefits of offerings during the Vassana period and Kathina**

When we invite the monks to observe the vassana period in our temple and we celebrate the successful completion of it on Kathina Day, many types of merit accrue to those who:

- i) look after the needs of monks during the period
- ii) participate in dhamma sermons, dhamma discussions, meditation programs and chanting of partitas
- iii) make offering of Kathina robes and other gifts on Kathina day.

### **Benefits:**

- i) offering of Kathina robe is considered one of the greatest meritorious activities by the Buddha;
- ii) whatever else offered on Kathina day, the same merit could be accrued to the donors
- iii) one of the stanzas chanted during Kathina glorifies the greatness of merit from performing Kathina, “ Even this solid earth, or a solid rock or a piece of diamond could tremble, shake or break at times but the merit obtained by offering Kathina robe could not be nullified by anything until one achieves the ultimate goal of Nibbāna”. That is why it is called KATHINA (unshakable).
- iv) In the .....a disciple named Nāgitha recalled the glorious benefits of having offered Kathina robe to the Maha Sangha – he was never born in lower planes of existence (like spirit world or animal realm) and for the last 30 aeons or kalpa, he had been born in higher or blissful realms like divine planes or human world. The merit thus obtained was very helpful to him to realize the ultimate truth.
- v) However, even the merit of offering Kathina cannot help a person who committed the 5 heinous crimes (patricide, matricide, murder of an arahat, wounding of a Buddha or causing schism in the Sangha) from suffering the consequences of the act. For minor bad deeds, the positive power of offering Kathina could reduce or impeach their negative effects. Furthermore, one could be blessed with happiness, long and healthy life, good complexion, physical strength and wisdom in one's wandering in samsāra until the ultimate goal Nibbāna is achieved.