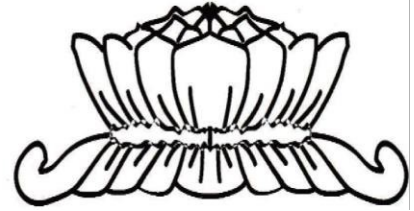


# LOTUS



JOURNAL OF THE BIRMINGHAM BUDDHIST VIHARA

ISSUE No.52 WINTER 2019

## **KATHINA ROBE OFFERING CEREMONY**

**In remembrance of and with respect to our grandparents, parents  
and teachers**

*Friends from 1981 batch Institute of Medicine (1) Yangon and Family*

**Sunday 20th October 2019**



## **“Kathina Festival”**

*The Kathina festival is a major observance of Theravada Buddhism. It is a time for laypeople to offer cloth for robes and other necessities to the monastic sangha. Kathina takes place every year in the four weeks following the end of Vassa, the rains retreat.*

*While the Buddha was dwelling at Jetavana Vihar in Shravasti, a group of thirty monks visited the Buddha after the three-month rains-retreat. The Buddha asked them about their retreat and noticed their worn-out robes. It is said that at the time, monks used to wear sewn pieces of cloth collected from different places such as cemeteries, streets, rubbish-heaps, etc. To rectify this, the Buddha granted permission to celebrate the Kathina ceremony.*

*From that time until now, lay supporters have made a point of offering cloth at the end of the Vassa; it being allowed that this offering can take place at any time during the four weeks following the end of the retreat. The Sangha are not allowed to request the offering, so it is important that the initiation of the offering and its organization be done entirely by the lay people. Actually, the ceremony is held in such high esteem that it is rare that the Kathina doesn't take place and supporters will usually agree on a date with the abbot of the monastery well in advance.*

*The cloth, according to the Buddha's advice, must be offered to the whole Sangha, not to any particular individual, so that the bhikkhus have to formally agree as to which of them should receive the cloth. About three meters of cloth are needed: enough to make up at least one of the main robes. Once the cloth has been offered, the entire community tries to take part in the activity of sewing the new robe, it being stipulated that this robe be cut, sewn and finished before the dawn of the next day. Until recent times finishing always involved dyeing the robe as well, and even today, in traditional forest monasteries in Burma and Thailand, white cloth is given and whilst some of the bhikkhus are cutting and sewing, others are preparing the bath of natural dye.*

## **Passion of Power Precluding Permanent Peace**

**An association with a distasteful and domineering person will undoubtedly bring home misery and misfortune and miss the boat for gaining a permanent peace of liberation from continued long stretch of existences (Samsara) even chances were at hand. It was the case for King Ajatasattu of Magadha, son of Queen Vedehi, who had committed the greatest crime on earth by torturing and assassination of own beloved father, King Bimbisara, the stream-winner, thanks to excessive desire for power.**

**Owing to physical and mental stress and strain and sufferings in great extent in the wake of his unforgivable misdeed of biblical proportion, and adhering a sound advice and arrangement of Saya Jivaka went to pay obeisance and heard “ The Fruits of the Life of a Sangha” from the Blessed One in Mango Grove, on the night of Full moon day of Tazaungmoon, whereby King Azatasattu took refuge in Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha.**

**If he were a person not committed such a colossal and indelible crime he would have, having listened the discourse, established into Sotapana Fruition, however, even though he missed such opportunity, he was saved from going down to Avici apaya but only in Lohakumbiya Apaya for sixty thousand years in respect of his humongous sin and then he will ultimately become as Vizitarwi Pacceka Buddha after having fulfilled Parami for required length of time.**

***(Reference to Samannaphala Sutta from Digha Nikaya- Long discourse of the Buddha)***

**With Metta**

**Kyaw Myint Oo & Than Than Ywe**

မြတ်စွာဘုရားက မကျန်းမာတဲ့ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်တွေဆိုရင် ...



“ ဒီတရား ၅ - မျိုးကို နှလုံးသွင်းပါတဲ့ ”  
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နံပါတ်(၁) ...  
 ဒီကိုယ်ခန္ဓာကိုယ်ကြီးဟာ မတင့်မတယ်  
 ရွံစဖွယ်ကောင်းတယ်ဆိုတာကို  
 မပြတ်ဆင်ခြင်ပေးပါတဲ့ ...

နံပါတ်(၂)  
 ကိုယ်စားတဲ့အစာအာဟာရတွေရဲ့  
 စက်ဆုပ်ဖွယ်အခြေအနေတွေကို  
 မပြတ်ဆင်ခြင်စဉ်းစားပေးပါတဲ့ ...

နံပါတ်(၃)  
 လောကကြီးရဲ့ပျော်ရွှင်စရာကင်းမဲ့နေပုံကို  
 ဆင်ခြင်စဉ်းစားပေးပါတဲ့ ...

နံပါတ်(၄)  
 သင်္ခါရမှန်သမျှ တယ်အရာမှမမြဲဘူးဆိုတဲ့  
 အနိစ္စသညာကို ဆင်ခြင်စဉ်းစားပေးပါတဲ့ ...

နံပါတ်(၅)  
 ရေခြင်းနဲ့ပတ်သက်တဲ့ အမှတ်သညာတစ်ခု  
 ကိုယ့်ရဲ့ရေခြင်းပဲဖြစ်စေ

ကိုယ်နဲ့ပတ်သက်တဲ့ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်တွေရဲ့ရေခြင်းပဲဖြစ်  
 စေ ရေခြင်းနဲ့ပတ်သက်ပြီး သတိ သံဝေဂ  
 အသိဉာဏ်အမြဲတမ်းဖြစ်အောင်  
 ဆင်ခြင်စဉ်းစားပေးပါလို့  
 ဟောကြားတော်မူတာဖြစ်တယ်..

ဒီနှလုံးသွင်းတရား ၅ - မျိုးဟာ  
 မကျန်းမာသူတွေအတွက်အထူးလိုအပ်တဲ့  
 နှလုံးသွင်းတရားကမ္မဋ္ဌာန်း ၅ - ခုပဲ ဖြစ်တယ်လို့  
 ဒီလိုဆိုလိုတာ..

ခုလိုကမ္မဋ္ဌာန်း ၅ - မျိုးကို နှလုံးသွင်း  
 ဆင်ခြင်ခြင်းအားဖြင့်  
 ထိုပုဂ္ဂိုလ်ဟာ ကြီးမားတဲ့ အကျိုးကျေးဇူးတွေကို  
 ရရှိနိုင်တယ်..

မြတ်စွာဘုရားက  
 တယ်လောက်ထိအောင် ဟောတုန်းဆိုလို့ရှိရင်  
 ဒီလိုသာ မှန်မှန်ကန်ကန်နှလုံးသွင်းပြီး  
 ဒီတရား ၅ - မျိုး ပြည့်ပြည့်ဝဝကြီးရှိမယ်ဆိုရင်  
 သူဟာ မသေခင်မှာ  
 ရဟန္တာကြီး ဖြစ်သွားနိုင်ပါတယ်လို့ ဟောထားတယ်။

ဒေါက်တာအရှင်နန္ဒမာလာဘိဝံသ  
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မေတ္တာဖြင့် ဓမ္မဒါန ...

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## Dr Kyaw Myint Oo's 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Dana



### *Thank You*

Birmingham Buddhist Vihara Trust would like to express sincere thanks to Dr Oo and his wife for their meritorious offerings carried out on occasion of Dr. Oo's birthday. They are also regular supporters and donors of the vihara!

May Dr Oo and Daw Than Than Ywe family be happy, healthy, long live for the benefit of Sasana and all beings!

May all beings share the benefit of this meritorious deeds and overcome all forms of their sufferings!

### **“Things to Take to – Raison of d’etre Nibanna”**

*Having entered a septuagenarian territory at the point age 75, an affordable cash donation out of hard earned “Right livelihood” money to the tune of GBP 5000 towards the ring-fenced fund for regular structural maintenance of Dhammatalaka Peace Pagoda, Dr Rewata Dhamma Hall and Sangha Vihara (Triple Gem) and GBP 1000 each the following Theravada Buddhist Viharas for the sake of purposeful promoting to practice “Mindfulness Meditation” based on established “Four Foundations” (Sattipathana), one and the only technique in extricating oneself from an entangled and endless rounds of rebirth. In addition to those good courses above, another tranche of GBP 1000 for Lotus Children’s Education Trust U.K to help resurrect monsoon weather downpour and deluge ravaged primary school in Chittagong Hill Tracts to bring back rude health being equipped with necessary new school furniture, has been given away.*

*Tinsrana Buddhist Vihara, Shwesin Tipitaka Vihara, London Buddhist Vihara, Birmingham Buddhist Vihara, Dhammikarama Vihara and Lotus Children’s Education Trust.*

*We the family share this meritorious deed to you all from thirty-one realms.*

*May this Dana help comprehend us fully “Four Noble Truths” and thereby escape from the gate of an inexorable Khandh Dukkha!*

*With Metta*

*Dr Kyaw Myint Oo & Than Than Ywe family*



# Vihara News

## Spiritual Director Dr Ottaranyana

### Pagoda News

#### Pagoda Anniversary

Dhammatalaka Peace Pagoda 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary and Waso Robe offering was held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2019. Hundreds of supporters attended to the Anniversary. This great event was sponsored by Dr Wunna family, Daw Aye Mya Khin family and Dr Mar Mar Lwin. Birmingham Vihara Trust would like to thank all sponsors.



#### Ten days Insight Meditation Retreat

The retreat took place from 16<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August to enable meditators to experience the characteristic of impermanence and nature of non-selfhood as part of the process of insight meditation. Yogies with different age group participated and free vegetarian lunch was offered. Thank you all for your support. During the retreat, Abhidhamma from meditation point of view was taught by Bhante for both theory and practical knowledge.

#### Abhidhamma & Pavarana (13th October from 6.30 to 8.30pm)

Our sangha celebrated Pavarana in accordance with Vinaya (Discipline) and chanting Patthana (Abhidhamma). It is also a Lighting Ceremony. Finally, all devotees pay respect to Daw Khin Mi Mi Swe who is 95 years old as a Buddhist tradition of paying respect to our elders. Samosa and hot drinks were served to all visitors after the event.

#### KATHINA ROBE OFFERING CEREMONY

In remembrance and respect to our grandparent, parents and teachers, friends from 1981 batch Institute of Medicine (1) Yangon and family sponsored the Kathina on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at Birmingham Buddhist Vihara. Twelve monks and over two hundred of friends attended the Kathina ceremony.



#### Ordination

U Htait Tin Myint was ordained at Birmingham Buddhist vihara on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2019. His wife Daw Khin Swe Hla, elder sister Dr Htait Tin Hla (USA) and family joined this special ceremony and offered Swan data to Sangha and visitors.



Chris Zin Maung Thant, son of Dr Moe Thant and Theingi Thant ordained at Birmingham Vihara on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 2019 in celebration of his 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday.





### Vihara Maintenance

U Rattapala is taking care of the Pagoda and vihara. Alena and her husband Alan look after gold fishes in the pagoda pond and also help with the garden. Dr Mar Mar Lwin handles the kitchen.

### Volunteers

Ko Htet Hla and group of friends from London volunteer to trim the Peace Pagoda fence every year. Birmingham Vihara Trust would like to thank you all for your commitment and hard work. May you be fulfilled with all your wishes.



### Vihara Renovation Work

Vihara Dining hall renovation work completed before the Kathina Ceremony on the 20th October 2019. It is the 1981 class of doctors who are holding the ceremony and they are part donating to the cost of the renovation. It is their wish that the hall is done in time. Further renovation of three ensuite at Sangha's residence and shrine room near the kitchen will be carried out soon!



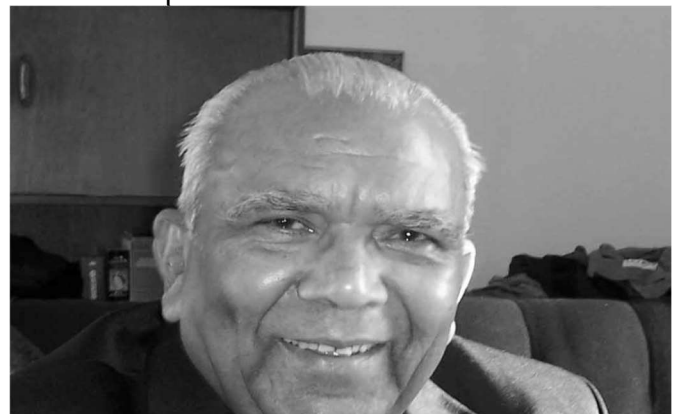
### Swan Dana – Thank you

Birmingham Sangha and Trustees would like to thank all Breakfast and Lunch Dana donors who either came to Vihara and prepared good foods or invite Sangha to their home and offered special meal and donations. Some travelled far away and came very early to donate breakfast. May you all fulfil with your wishes and prosper.



### Mr Samsari Lal Memorial Ceremony

On the 1st September 2019 a memorial service for Mr Samsari Lal, one of our late trustees and patron of the Vihara, was arranged by his sons and grandsons and families. They offered lunch Dana to the Sangha. Mr Lal worked closely with our founder Sayadaw Dr Rewata Dhamma to establish Dhamma Talaka Peace Pagoda and Birmingham Buddhist Vihara since 1980s! A great remarkable person indeed for our Vihara!



### Pagoda Donation List 🙏🙏🙏

Dr Kyaw Myint Oo + Daw Than Than Ywe	£5000
Dr Aung Phyo + Dr Thin Thin Yee	£1000
Dr Zeyer Win +Daw Hla Myat Lwin	£1000
Dr Lin Swe Aye + Daw Khin Nyo Thet	£ 100



## Dr Ottarana Nyana's Activities

Teaching Metta Sutta and Dhamma Cakka Sutta during August 2019 at Dhammaramsi (Brussels, Belgium) and 30 yogies participated in the Metta retreat happily.



Sunday children program was run by Dr Nagaseana at the Birmingham Vihara, focusing on children's cognitive ability, morality, transformation and responsibility for future world.

In November 2019, Dr Ottaranyana led ten days Vipasana retreat. Abhidhamma (7 Visuddhi = Purification) was taught from practical point of view during the meditation retreat at Dhammaramsi in Belgium.



## Dr Ottara Nyana's Future Activity

Dr Ottara Nyana will be going to Myanmar from 27th Nov to 25th Jan 2020

## Dr Nagaseana's Activities

A meditation retreat was conducted by Dr Nagasena in Czech Republic in September and given a talk at Brono University during the visit.

Bhante also went to France for one week during November 2019 to attend Kathina ceremony at Metri Vihara together with Dr Ottara Nyana.

## Birmingham Buddhist Vihara Trust Transport Need

Insurance?

Car Tax?

Service?

Petrol?



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Dear Dhamma Friends,

Transportation is required for Sangha to travel for Lunch Dana at devotees' residence. Birmingham Sangha usually use their own transport which is a convenient way for both Sangha and devotees.

Unfortunately, current car passed its age and need a new car please.

If you are interested in this transportation Dana, please contact Dr Ottara Nyana or Dr Max Kyi for further discussion.

Dr Ottara Nyana

Phone: 0121 4546591

Email: [venuttaranyana@gmail.com](mailto:venuttaranyana@gmail.com).

Dr Max Kyi

Phone : 0121 6826978

Email : [maxiekyi@gmail.com](mailto:maxiekyi@gmail.com)

# 2564 BE/2020 EVENTS CALENDAR

## BIRMINGHAM BUDDHIST VIHARA - DHAMMATALAKA PEACE PAGODA- BIRMINGHAM BUDDHIST ACADEMY

### FESTIVALS

#### **Buddha Day (Visaka)**

Sunday 10 May 10:30am

#### **Dhammacakka Day & Pagoda Anniversary**

Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 10:30am

#### **Abhidhamma & Pavarana Day**

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. 7:00pm

#### **Kathina**

Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 10:30am

### FULL MOON

Chanting in the Pagoda at 7:30pm except on festival days.

9<sup>th</sup> Jan, 8<sup>th</sup> Feb, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 7<sup>th</sup> April,  
6<sup>th</sup> May, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep,  
1<sup>st</sup> Oct, 31<sup>st</sup> Oct, 29<sup>th</sup> Nov, 29<sup>th</sup> Dec

### RETREATS

#### **Easter Retreat**

10<sup>th</sup> April – 13<sup>th</sup> April

Led by Dr Ottara Nyana

#### **10-DAY Insight Retreat**

**21<sup>st</sup> Aug - 30<sup>th</sup> Aug** (experienced)

Led by Dr Ottara Nyana

Designed to enable meditators to experience the characteristic of impermanence and nature of non-selfhood as part of the process of insight meditation.

### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR RETREAT

#### **SCHOOL VISITS**

25<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> Dec (suitable for all)

New year patthana chanting every year 6pm – 8pm new year day.

Contact : Dr Nagasana

Email : [uk.suriya@gmail.com](mailto:uk.suriya@gmail.com)

### SCHOOL VISIT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The number of school visits to the Pagoda is rising year on year and continues to provide students with invaluable experience to hear about the Buddha and his teachings and to meet Buddhist monks. For a school visit please contact:

Contact : Dr Nagasana

Email : [uk.suriya@gmail.com](mailto:uk.suriya@gmail.com)

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY CLASSES

from 1pm - 3pm

Every Sunday except when it falls on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Suitable for 5 + years, but all welcome with or without children.

For further details please contact Ellen on her mobile:

07814 972 460 or email her at:

[ellen06\\_121@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ellen06_121@yahoo.co.uk)

### SUMMER COURSE FOR CHILDREN

(5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Aug.)

Please bring your children to the Vihara to stay here and learn about Buddhism. This five day course will include a Buddhist film as well as enjoyable teachings. Accommodation will be available in our Vihara and we look forward to our children's course. If you want to train your children with novice ordination, you are welcome to book with us during these children days.

For details please contact Dr Nagasana:

[uk.suriya@gmail.com](mailto:uk.suriya@gmail.com)

### MEDITATION CLASSES

**Beginners:** Thurs. 7:30pm

**Advanced:** Mon. 7:30pm

### PAGODA OPENING

Summer 9am – 6pm

Winter 9am – 5pm

The Pagoda is open most days but to avoid disappointment **please call or e-mail first** to ensure there will be someone available to welcome you and show you around.

Phone: 0121 454 6591 or

email: [venuttaranyana@gmail.com](mailto:venuttaranyana@gmail.com)

For school visit contact: [uk.suriya@gmail.com](mailto:uk.suriya@gmail.com)

### Buddhist Studies Online Course

- Second year MA course second semester will start from 8/02/2020 – 24/05/2020.
- New Diploma course will start from 12<sup>th</sup> Sep 2020.
- Students will study Abhidhamma, Pali Grammar and Meditation taught by Dr Ottara Nyana and Dr Nagasana.

For further details please contact:

Dr Ottara Nyana,

email: [venuttaranyana@gmail.com](mailto:venuttaranyana@gmail.com)