



Sharing

MERIT

with living relatives

Bhante Cakkapala
Resident Monk,
Religious Advisor,
Mangala Vihara
(Buddhist Temple)



There is a misconception among the Buddhists that sharing of the merits is confined to only our past departed relatives and it is not meant for living relatives in this life. In fact, the merits can be shared to both the deceased and living individuals around us. Citations of following *suttas* from Pāli Canon are the tangible facts about sharing of the merit with living relatives.

In *Kāladāna Sutta* (AN 5: 36), the Buddha says that if one rejoices in someone's merits or helps their donation event, he will get a share of that merit.

- Those who **rejoice** in such deeds; (*Ye tattha anumodanti*)
Or who provide (other) service. (*veyyāvaccam karonti vā*)
Do not miss out on the offering; (*na tena dakkhinā ūnā*)
They too partake of the merit. (*tepi puññassa bhīgino*)

This discourse shows that we can share the merit with the people who are helping our donation event. We can also share the information of our good deeds with living relatives who are living near or far. If they rejoice our donation, they will also acquire good deed. Rejoicing others' merit (*pattānumodana*) is a kind of good deed and categorized under *Dāna* group as it is mostly related to it. If a person rejoices and appreciates the act of good deeds done by others, it will bring a transformation of a better life particularly for a *peta*.

In *Nandamātā Sutta* (AN 7:53), we can learn another evidence of sharing merit to a living individual. After chanting the *Pārāyana* verses, *Nandamātā*, one of the leading female disciples of the Buddha, share that merit with the great *[deva]* king *Vessavaṇa*. The great *deva* king rejoices it saying "*Sādhū Sādhū Sādhū!*". The great *deva* king informed *Nandamātā* that the *bhikkhu Saṅgha* headed by Ven. *Sāriputta* and Ven. *Moggallāna* will be coming to her hometown early next morning and urged her to offer breakfast to the *Nandamātāe Saṅgha*. The great *deva* king also requested her to dedicate and share that merit with him. *Nandamāta* did as requested.

to be continued

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Sharing merit with living relatives

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After meal offering, *Nandamātā* said to Ven. *Sāriputta*, “*Bhante*, let whatever merit I may have gained by this act of giving be dedicated to the happiness of the great [*deva*] king *Vessavaṇa*.”

In *Mahāparinibbāna Sutta* (DN 16), the Buddha gives an advice to people who are moving to their new houses. After offering meal to the virtuous people at the house opening day, they should share the merit with *devas* who are residing there. This is what the Buddha taught in the *Sutta*.

“In whatever place the wise man makes his home,
He should feed the virtuous leaders of the holy life.
Whatever *devas* there are who report this offering (*dakkhiṇaṃ*),
They will pay him respect and honor for this.
They tremble (safeguard) for him as a mother for her son,
and he for whom *devas* tremble ever happy is.”

Taking this example, after doing a certain good deed, we normally share that merit with all living beings by reciting the following stanza:

*Ākāsaṭṭhā ca bhummaṭṭhā; Devā nāgā mahiddhikā.
Puññaṃ taṃ anumoditvā; ciraṃ rakkhantu sāsanaṃ.*

May all beings inhabiting in space and earth,
Devas and *Nagas* of mighty power
Having shared this merit,
Long protect the Buddha Dispensation.

Sharing merits (*pattidāna*) is especially done for departed relatives particularly for poor *Petas* who needs our help to escape from their miserable lives. We recollect the gratitude of our past relatives and do the best thing i.e. sharing of the merit with them. At the same time, we shouldn't forget that we can share our good deeds with living relatives as well. Sharing merits itself is a kind of good deed that accelerate our good kamma in the future.





MV 54th Annual General Meeting

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MV 54th

AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Members of the Management Committee 2024/2025

MV 54th Annual General Meeting was held on 21st April 2024 at 1.30pm. The Religious Adviser and Chief Monk of MV, Bhante Seelananda, in his speech at Mangala Hall, said that all members have the privilege of propagating the Dhamma through their actions which included participating in the Management of the Temple. Bhante also remarked that members had actively demonstrated their support for the new temple in Anuradhapura. In so doing, all members are practicing good thoughts and acquiring new good merits. Bhante also look forward to having more younger people to join the MV community as members and Committee members so that the good work and foundations laid by our late founding Bhante M.M. Mahaweera can continue to grow.

The members have elected a new Management Committee for the term 2024/2025. They are:

Chairman Lim Ah Swan

Vice Chairman Tan Weng Cheong

Hon Secretary Rosalie Boon

Asst Hon Secretaries Janet Tan and Donna Tan

Hon Treasurer Mervin Phua

Asst Hon Treasurer Jenny Tan and Veronica Ang

Committee Members Annie Lee, Hema Teo, Linda Ang, Jasmine Tan, Vijita Lim and Sam Chong



Sīlasamādāna Day



Participants with Venerables Bhante P Seelananda and Bhante P Chandaratana at close of event



The Organizing Team (standing) – Left to Right: Jina Tan, Donna Tan, Kelvin Tang, Melanie Zhang and Tan Sok Cheng

Seated: (L) Bhante Chandaratana and (R) Bhante Seelananda

1st May is now synonymous with *Sīlasamādāna* Day at MV. This event was initiated by our Chief Religious Adviser, Bhante P Seelananda and held for the first time last year. It is an event whereby members, devotees and students from the various sub-groups are encouraged to participate in the practicum of the Buddha's teachings.

Preceding this year's *Sīlasamādāna* Day, were 2 nights of Dhamma Talks on Meditation held on 27th and 28th April followed by another two full days of Meditation Retreat held on 29th and 30th April at MV. This year, MV had invited meditation teacher, Bhante Panadure Chandaratana from the renowned Mitirigala Nissarana Vanaya of Sri Lanka to conduct the 5-day event.

Chandaratana taught participants the techniques of both walking and sitting meditations. *Bhante's* teachings were based on the *Satipattāna Sutta* taught by the Buddha. Bhante Chandaratana exhorted the benefits of mindfulness and encouraged everyone not to be a "victim of (one's own) defilements" and to use *sati* or mindfulness to tame our *lobha*, *dosa* and *moha* so that concentration can be developed. Having a concentrated mind or *samadhi* will help us to lessen or reduce our *dukkha* of both mental and physical sufferings. Bhante Chandaratana used the analogy of a hall (mind) full of people (defilements). When people start leaving the hall, one by one, we will see more space. Similarly, consistent meditation practices will rid the mind of unnecessary burdens and leave the mind spacious, freer and thus happier. Mindfulness or *Sati* is important as mindfulness holds faith, effort, concentration and wisdom together to form the five-faculties needed for emancipation.

To those who participated, keep up the practice! To those who missed such a wonderful opportunity to learn and practice, do mark your calendar and join the event next year!



Vesak Day 2024

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Vesak Day 2024



On the full-moon day of 22nd May, Mangala Vihara celebrated Vesak marking the birth of Prince Siddhartha, the Enlightenment of Ascetic Gotama and the Mahaparinibbana of Lord Buddha. The thrice-blessed celebration is commemorated around the world by all Buddhists to honour the Buddha and the legacies of the Dhamma that is "beautiful in the beginning, beautiful in the middle and beautiful at the end".



From pre-Vesak preparations to the candle-light procession, many members, devotees and students had come forward as volunteers and together made this occasion a successful one. Mangala Vihara thank each and everyone for your contributions of time, efforts and presence. Sadhu!

Jasmine Tan
31May2024





Mangala Vihara International Buddhist Centre, Anuradhapura

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Mangala Vihara International Buddhist Centre at Anuradhapura, SL – photos courtesy of Jasmine Tan



Bhante Seelananda giving his welcome speech.
Photo courtesy of Lee Mee Yin

15th June 2024 will go down in history as a special day in the calendar of Mangala Vihara International Buddhist Centre (MVIBC) for it was the day that it was officially opened. MVIBC was conceived by Bhante P. Seelananda with objective of serving as a place for foreign monks visiting Anuradhapura who face challenges in accommodations, to rest and to practice. With full support from the management committee, members and devotees of MV, we are happy to be part of this initiative to support the growing international *Sangha*.

Bright and early, the contingent of sixty-five from Singapore arrived at the Maha Bodhi Temple in Anuradhapura to “invite” the bodhi-tree sapling to the newly built MVIBC. This follows the tradition set by Ven Mahinda in the 3rd century BCE where he had Bhikkhuni Sanghamitta to bring a sapling of the Bodhi tree where Buddha attained enlightenment to Sri Lanka.

Led by Kandyan drummers, the procession of bodhi sapling, Buddha-image and relic casket were brought into MVIBC. After a ribbon-cutting ceremony by distinguished monks and local dignitaries, the sapling, Buddha-image and relic casket were installed. Flowers and candles were offered in adoration at the respective altars. The temple was officially handed over to the *Maha Sangha* by Mr Lim Ah Swan, Mdm Veronica Ang and Ms Rosalie Boon.

Besides the sixty-five from MV Singapore, ten monks, distinguished guests, neighbours and many local devotees attended the opening ceremony. This was followed by a *Sanghika dana* and lunch for all who attended. To commemorate the joyous occasion, an overnight chanting session was conducted till the dawn of the following morning of 16th June.

Please read Chairman Lim Ah Swan opening speech and visit our website and facebook pages to view more photos.

Jasmine Tan
24th June 2024



Top – Bodhi sapling at Maha Bodhi Temple – photo courtesy of Jasmine Tan
Below – Bringing the sapling to MVIBC – photo courtesy of Lee Mee Yin



Janet Tan and Donna Tan offer lighted lotus candles at the newly installed Buddha image at the shrine hall located on the 3rd storey.
Photo courtesy of Lee Mee Yin



Mangala Vihara International Buddhist Centre, Anuradhapura

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Speech by Chairman Lim Ah Swan on the opening of MVIBC

Namo Buddhāya, Good morning, Venerable Sirs

- Ven. Prof. Ittadimaliye Indasara Nayaka Thero Ex Vice Chancellor,
Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka.
- fellow dhammadutas, ladies and gentlemen,

Today is a momentous day as we come together to celebrate the opening of Mangala Vihara International Buddhist Centre. It is with immense joy and gratitude that I stand before you on this special occasion. This is not only a significant milestone for our community but also a deeply personal one for me, as it marks the first time I am so involved in the opening of a temple.



My first foray into Buddhism began in 1970 with Singapore's Mangala Vihara(Buddhist Temple), which had already been serving the local community for a good decade when I joined. My journey with Mangala Vihara included being part of the organising committee when we undertook the construction of an extension building and a refresh of the main shrine hall. However, today's occasion is distinctively different and profoundly inspiring. Here, at Mangala Vihara International Buddhist Centre, we have built it from the ground up, transforming a mere plot of land into this magnificent and serene space where we now stand.

This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to our collective effort, dedication, and shared vision. I understand from Bhante Seelananda that he intends for Mangala Vihara International Buddhist Centre to also accommodate foreign Buddhist monks visiting Anuradhapura, addressing the challenges they face in finding suitable accommodation in this place. This initiative reflects not only foresight but also a deep compassion and a commitment to the wellbeing of the Sangha, who continue to help us find our way in today's busy world.

I believe I speak for all of us when I say that we are grateful for the opportunity to practice dana, the act of giving, which is a cornerstone of Buddhism. Many of us have contributed time, money, and effort to support Bhante Seelananda and the Buddhist community here. Dana is extolled in the Pali canon as a great virtue and is considered the beginning of the path to liberation.

We can draw inspiration from one of Buddha's greatest lay supporters, Anathapindika, renowned for his supreme generosity. His gift of Jetavana Park provided shelter for the Sangha and for the Buddha during his lifetime. This act of giving has echoed through the centuries, providing a timeless example of generosity and devotion.

While we may not all have the means to give on the scale of Anathapindika, we should embrace every opportunity for dana with a joyful heart. Before giving, we should feel happiness in anticipating the chance to practice generosity. While giving, we should rejoice in the act itself, knowing we are helping to meet a need. And after giving, we can find satisfaction and peace in having performed a good deed. So when it is time for all of us to close our eyes, we should pray that our good deeds will appear and remind us of the good that we have done in our lives before our passing away.

To conclude, I would like to share a call to alms giving from the Dhammapada, Verse 177 as uttered by the Buddha:
*Asadisadana Vatthu, Na ve kadariyā devalokaṃ vajanti,
bālā have nappasaṃsanti dānaṃ, dhīro ca dānaṃ anumodamāno, ten'eva so hoti sukhi parattha.*

"Indeed, misers do not go to celestial realms; fools do not praise charity. The wise man rejoices in giving and thereby becomes happy thereafter."

Let us all rejoice today in the opening of Mangala Vihara International Buddhist Centre, celebrating this new beacon of peace and spirituality. May Mangala Vihara International Buddhist Centre flourish and serve the Buddhist community and all beings with grace and wisdom for many years to come.

Thank you, and may you all be blessed with happiness and peace.

Mr Lim Ah Swan
Chairman, Mangala Vihara Buddhist Temple
15th June 2024

Upcoming Events

Buddhist Courses

Buddhist and Pali College of Singapore
(Affiliated to the Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka)

Diploma in Buddhism

Curriculum

- Early Buddhism - Basic Doctrines
- Buddhist Social Dimensions
- Geographical Expansion of Theravada Buddhism
- Early History of Buddhism up to 3rd Century BCE
- Pali Qualifying Paper

Register here for the Diploma in Buddhism Course Preview now!



For enquiries, please contact: Ms. Anura Kumari at enquiries@bpc.sg

Introduction to **Buddhism Course**
July 2024 (27th Intake)

- How much do you know about Buddhism?
- Are you a knowledgeable Buddhist?
- What is the essence of Buddhism?
- Do you know how to practice Buddhism?

Course Details

Course Date: 10th July to 11th Sept 2024 (10 weeks)

Frequency: Every Wednesday 7.30pm to 9.30pm

Venue: Mangala Vihara Buddhist Temple
30 Jin Eunos, 30904 S419495 (Opposite Eunos MRT)

Course Fees: By donation

Email: info@buddhismcollege.sg

Tel: St. Lynn @ 8288 9888

Instructor: By experienced Dhamma Teachers

Topics are covered in plain and simple language and include:

The Freedom of Inquiry or Dhamma, the Life of the Buddha, the 3 Characteristics of Existence, the 4 Noble Truths and the Middle Way, Four Noble Truths, the Buddhist Teachings, How to Practice Buddhism, the Different Buddhist Traditions, the Meaning of Karma, Buddhist Rituals and Chanting, Buddhist Meditation.

Organized by the Buddhist and Pali College of Singapore

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佛学与巴利文学院举办
2024佛学简介
基础佛学介绍

由新加坡佛学与巴利文学院讲师授课

课程详情

日期: 2024年9月18日
次数: 每课两小时 (共六堂课, 最后一堂课程在星期六早上)
时间: 晚上7点30分至9点
地点: 初級中學
Mangala Vihara (Buddhist Temple)
30 Jin Eunos, S419495

课程报名

学名: 陈嘉庚
邮件: chinesebuddhismcollege@gmail.com
电话: 8288 9888 Sister Lynn Choy

课程内容

- 佛教中自由信仰, 志同而合
- 佛陀的一生
- 四圣谛, 三法印
- 八正道
- 在家人和可实践佛学
- 建立功德和方式与过程
- 佛教经典入门 (巴利经)
- 内观禅修生活

请随时留意此海报, 谢谢。

Dhamma Talks

Dhamma Talk

Bhante Cakkapala was ordained as a monk at the age of 12 and obtained his Dhammacariya (Dhamma Teacher) degree when bhante was 22. Bhante graduated with a Master degree from Kelaniya University in 2008 and was one of the founding members of Dhamma School Foundation in Myanmar. Bhante has been teaching Buddhism to various classes at Mangala Vihara (Buddhist Temple) in Singapore since 2012.

Bhante Cakkapala
Resident Monk
Mangala Vihara
(Buddhist Temple)

The Nature of Religion

15 July 2024,
Monday
7.45pm - 9.15pm

Mangala Vihara
(Buddhist Temple)
30 Jin Eunos, S419495
Level 2
Chew Quee Neo Hall

A series of Dhamma talks organized by Mangala Vihara Dhamma Fellowship (MVDF) Buddhist & Pali College Alumni (BPCA)

Dhamma Talk

Bhante C. Rathnasara was ordained as a novice monk in 1984 at the age of twelve. Bhante received his higher ordination in 1985 at the Mahavamsa Vihara in Kandy, Sri Lanka. Bhante holds a Bachelor of Arts (Special degree) in Mass Communication, a Postgraduate Diploma in Fundamental Buddhist Studies, & a Master of Arts degree in Buddhist Studies, from the University of Kelaniya. Bhante is an author of many well-received Dhamma books.

Ven. C. Rathnasara
Founder & Spiritual Advisor,
Dhammakaya Buddhist Society, Singapore

Can you decide your Rebirth?

19 August 2024,
Monday
7.45pm - 9.15pm

Mangala Vihara
(Buddhist Temple)
30 Jin Eunos, S419495
Level 2
Chew Quee Neo Hall

A series of Dhamma talks organized by Mangala Vihara Dhamma Fellowship (MVDF) Buddhist & Pali College Alumni (BPCA)

佛法开示

明闻法师是斯里兰卡著名的出家师父。在斯里兰卡佛学院大学取得硕士学位, 教龄七年。2003年到台湾法鼓山佛学研究所, 获准出家, 毕业于佛光山大学, 而在台湾弘法三年。

明闻法师
(Bhante Punjaji)

日常生活与解脱

Daily Life & Liberation

2024年9月2日
星期一
晚上7点45分至9点15分

昭福寺
Mangala Vihara
(Buddhist Temple)
30 Jin Eunos, S419495
Level 2 (二樓)
Chew Quee Neo Hall

A series of Dhamma talks organized by Mangala Vihara Dhamma Fellowship (MVDF) Buddhist & Pali College Alumni (BPCA)

Other Events

Piṇḍapāṭa Ceremony
Mangala Vihara (Buddhist Temple)

9 August 2024
9.00 am

The Pīṇḍapāṭa ceremony refers to the act of collecting alms into the bowl. Piṇḍapāṭa has been an important part of the monastic life in Buddhism. Traditionally, monastic members find themselves by going from house to house to collect alms. This practice of Piṇḍapāṭa allows monastic members to maintain their entire lives on spiritual cultivation. It is also a powerful tool that helps monastic members to cultivate the spirit of acceptance within oneself, and to develop appreciation and contentment. Furthermore, it allows the lay community to cultivate the monastic mental quality of generosity.

Programme

- 9.00 am Assembly in the Vihara Hall
- 9.30 am Alms Round offering (Candil Rice into the Monks' bowls)
- 10.00 am Pūjā (Buddha Pūjā)
- 10.30 am Dhamma Chanting
- 11.00 am Gāthā offering to the Monks
- 11.30 am Chanting of Paritta
- 12.00 pm Lunch for Everyone

You May Bring Own Dishes to Share with Everyone!

MANGALA VIHARA (BUDDHIST TEMPLE), 30 JIN EUNOS, SINGAPORE

Vassāvāsa Invitation
Mangala Vihara (Buddhist Temple)

20 July 2024

The Pāli term "Vassāvāsa" refers to the observance of rainy retreat. In the Theravāda school of Buddhism, it is customary for monastic members to observe three months of rainy retreat from Rāsi (July) full moon day until Vāṣa (October) full moon day. These three months had been the rainy season in ancient Northern India during the time of the Buddha. Due to the inconvenience for travelling during the rainy season, monastic members remain in one place throughout the season and engage fully in their practice.

This event is seen as a meritorious opportunity for the lay community, which allows them to closely associate and support monastic members throughout the three-month period. Hence, monastic members often observe the rainy retreat with an intention from a laity.

Programme

- 6.45 pm : Evening Pūjā
- 7.45 pm : Vassāvāsa Invitation
- 8.00 pm : Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta

MANGALA VIHARA (BUDDHIST TEMPLE), 30 JIN EUNOS, SINGAPORE

Chanting Classes 2024
Mangala Vihara (Buddhist Temple)

20 July - 30 October

DAY	TIME	CLASS
Monday	8.00 pm - 9.30 pm	Path of Emancipation
Tuesday	8.00 pm - 9.30 pm	Big Sutta - Parts I & II
Wednesday	8.00 pm - 9.30 pm	Big Sutta - Parts III & IV
Friday	8.00 pm - 9.30 pm	Big Sutta - Revision
Sunday	12.30 am - 1.30 pm	Mahanissādi

Welcome to train yourself in Pāli chanting!
Classes will guide you with Pāli pronunciation in meaning of the chantings.

MANGALA VIHARA (BUDDHIST TEMPLE), 30 JIN EUNOS, SINGAPORE

20 Jul, Saturday
Vassana Invitation

18 Aug, Sunday
7th Lunar Month
General Transferring of Merits