

# Ti-Ratana

Newsletter



## The Hungry Ghost Festival

Cultural, religious, or both?

## Buddhist Youth Articles

The Dhamma is Eternal

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## Article Contributions

Members are invited to contribute interesting articles to be published in this e-Bulletin. Kindly email your articles to [info@ti-ratana.org](mailto:info@ti-ratana.org) by 15 August 2021 for the July - August 2021 issue.

## Editorial Board

Chief Editor: Hoh Yoon Pok

Co-Editor: Rain Lee



PERSATUAN BUDDHA TI-RATANA  
KUALA LUMPUR & SELANGOR

# What is the Hungry Ghost Festival?

The Hungry Ghost Festival is a traditional Chinese celebration observed by ethnic Chinese communities throughout the world. It is a festival dedicated to remembering those who have passed away, particularly for those who are believed to have gone to lower realms, such as the Hells.

It is believed that on the 15th Night of the 7th Lunar month (usually in July or August), the gates between the Hells, Heavens and the World of the Humans are open for free travel.

The burning of joss paper, paper offerings, candles and offering of fruits are for the deceased, who are believed to haven't had much to eat or enjoy in a long time.

## Since it was a cultural festival, how did it get to Buddhist communities?

The Buddha spoke of the Tirokudda Sutta and the Ullambana Sutra in the Theravada and Mahayana Traditions respectively, where the Blessed one explained about the realm of Hungry Ghosts, who roam the earth, all year round (not just for a day).

They were once humans, but committed a lot of bad deeds while alive, resulting in heavy bad Karma, and now live in this realm, where they are forever hungry and are hardly able to eat.

In Buddhist beliefs, it is best for the living to do good deeds on behalf of them, so that when their time in their state as a Hungry Ghost is over, they will be reborn in a better place, or they would be reborn earlier than they should've. The burning of joss paper and other items is merely a cultural tradition. As Buddhism spreads around the world, culture and faith were brought together.



# Buddhist chief priest urges public to register for Covid-19 vaccination



KUALA LUMPUR – Buddhists in Malaysia have been urged to reflect on the teachings of Buddha in seeking knowledge as they get ready to celebrate Wesak Day tomorrow, amid the country's ongoing battle against the Covid-19 outbreak.

Malaysia's Buddhist Chief High Priest Ven. Datuk K. Sri Dhammaratana urged Buddhists to seek out information on Covid-19 and vaccines from legit sources, adding that it is the role of everyone to help to fight the misinformation on vaccination, especially those circulating in social media.

He also appealed to the public to register for the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme.

"Please register and get vaccinated against Covid-19. Please also attend the vaccination appointments as scheduled so that our country can achieve herd immunity as soon as possible.

"Let's do our part in this fight," he said when contacted by Bernama.

Dhammaratana, who is also the founder of the Ti-Ratana Group, received his first dose of the vaccine on 25th May 2021. He assured the public that the inoculation process was being handled by well-trained healthcare professionals.

"Mosquito bites are more painful than the jab," he said of his experience in receiving the jab.

He also reminded the people to adhere to the standard operating procedures (SOPs) at all times in order to help flatten the infection curve and invited Buddhists from all over Malaysia to pray for the good health of the front-liners and for patients to recover from the coronavirus. - BERNAMA, 25th May 2021

# Buddhist Youth Article: The Dhamma Is Eternal

## Everything is impermanent but the Dhamma is eternal - How is that possible?

You might have come across our youth group's posters on [Instagram](#) and maybe our [website](#), saying "Dhamma is Eternal". What comes to your mind may be "Did the Buddha not teach impermanence?" Yes, the Buddha did indeed teach impermanence in Dhammapada 20:277.

“All conditioned things are impermanent. When one sees this with wisdom, one turns away from suffering. This is the path to bliss.”

- Dhammapada 20:277



Our "Dhamma is Eternal" T Shirt, now available for sale at our [online store](#). All profits go to youth group expenses and various charitable organizations.

Let's take this as an example, British Physicist Sir Isaac Newton discovered that there was a force known as gravity in 1687. We all know that gravity is basically the force that keeps things that are meant to not float from floating in mid-air like in outer space. But it's not like prior to 1687, stuff floated around mid-air. Gravity still existed all that while, but no one knew what it was called. And even if someone doesn't believe in the concept of gravity today, gravity still exists. Gravity is also eternal.

Now take the example and replace the word "gravity" with "the Dhamma", the year 1687 with "over 2500 years ago" and "Sir Isaac Newton" with "Gautama Buddha". The Buddha's Dhamma teaches us that there is suffering, there are causes of suffering (Greed, Hatred, Delusion), there is a way to end suffering, and the path to the ending of suffering and attaining bliss (The Noble Eightfold Path). But it's not like prior to some time in 500 BC, there was no suffering, there was no greed, hatred or delusion and hence there was no way to get rid of "something that did not exist". That is not the case.

The Four Noble Truths still existed all that while, but no one knew about them. And today, even if someone doesn't believe in the Dhamma, the Dhamma still exists. Before the Dhamma was discovered by the Buddha, it already existed. Even when it is unfortunately no longer practiced, it will still exist. Hence, we say "Dhamma is Eternal."

But when we use the phrase "eternal", we are not alluding to the fact that the Dhamma is permanent. There is bound to be a time when the True Dhamma is no longer in practice. This is known as the Dhamma Ending Age. It will be a time in the far, future, but it will be a time when the Dhamma is not known.

You may ask, "How can the Dhamma be not known?", staring at the device in the palm of your hand, or sitting on the desk that *literally* lets you find anything on the internet in just a matter of seconds. The phrase "a time when the Dhamma is not known" is not meant to be taken literally. It instead refers to a time when the Dhamma is no longer practiced. If you do a Google search, you will realize that there are thousands of religions and faiths in the world, but only over a dozen are practiced by humanity today. It is thanks to people like you and me, that the Dhamma still exists, and we have to work diligently to keep the Buddha's teachings in the world for all of humanity.

So, why do we say that the Dhamma is eternal? It is simple. The Dhamma would have existed, with or without the Buddha. It existed before the current Buddha - it is said that there have been countless Buddhas in the past and there will be countless Buddhas in the future as well.



Our youth section, known as "Mettaworld" has "Dhamma is Eternal" as one of their core values.

- By Brother Rain Lee

### References

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# Ti-Ratana

## Activity Report

### Ti-Ratana Bangsar's Food Cupboard

Throughout the months of May and June, Ti-Ratana Bangsar were unable to do much due to strict lockdown rules. Ti-Ratana Bangsar resumed their food cupboard in early July.



On 4th July 2021, Ti-Ratana Food Cupboard in collaboration with Sweet Inn Restaurant in Damansara Kim distributed 100 lunches in the form of packed food together with Fresh Apples sponsored by Brother Lawrence Ang, to residents of PPR Seri Pahang, Bangsar. Ti-Ratana wishes to take this opportunity to thank all generous donors to our Food Cupboard funds for making this meaningful initiative a success especially at this trying time of EMCO.

Sadhu! Sadhu! Sadhu!

# Ti-Ratana Activity Report

## #Ti-RatanaBersamaRakyat



## #Ti-RatanaBersamaRakyat

   @tiratanaofficial | [www.ti-ratana.org](http://www.ti-ratana.org)

## #Ti-RatanaBersamaRakyat

Kami akan turun padang dan tolong sesiapa yang memerlukan bantuan:

1. Tangkap Gambar
2. Tuliskan Alamat
3. Hantarkan ke **TR Hotline**
  - 012 711 6099
  - 012 328 6099

Jika anda mengalami kemurungan dan tekanan hubungi:

1. **TR Careline**
  - 012 457 5099
  - 012 386 5099

   @tiratanaofficial | [www.ti-ratana.org](http://www.ti-ratana.org)



## #Ti-RatanaBersamaRakyat

我们将亲自帮助任何一位有需要帮助的人:

1. 拍照
2. 输入地址
3. 发给 **TR 热线**
  - 012 711 6099
  - 012 328 6099

如果您感到沮丧和压力, 请联系:

1. **TR 护理热线**
  - 012 457 5099
  - 012 386 5099

   @tiratanaofficial | [www.ti-ratana.org](http://www.ti-ratana.org)



Ti-Ratana HQ has launched an initiative to aid those in need of necessities during these trying times. The campaign was launched on the last day of June 2021. The food bank located at [Lot 6637, Jalan 13, 57100 Desa Petaling, Kuala Lumpur](#) allows those in need to collect food supplies from 9am to 2pm daily. The campaign also includes over the phone assistance, online assistance as well as on site assistance and delivery for urgent cases.

# Ti-Ratana Activity Report

#Ti-RatanaBersamaRakyat



# Ti-Ratana Activity Report

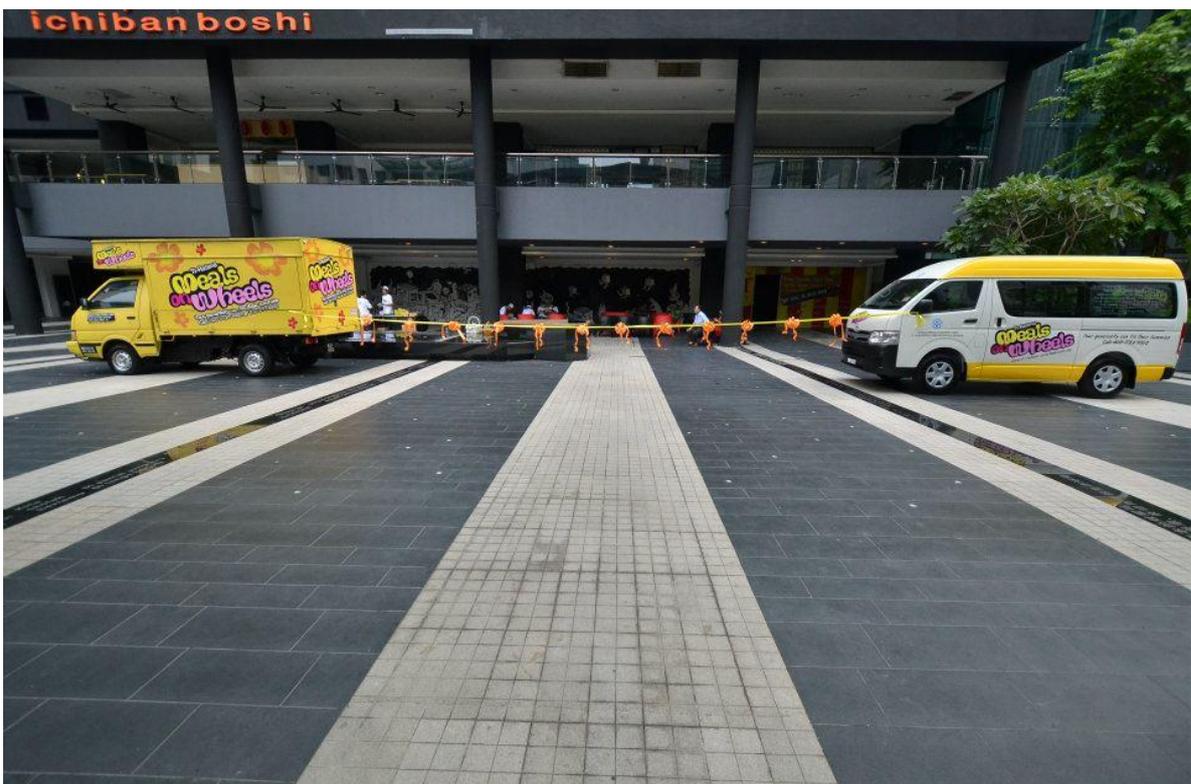
## At Ti-Ratana PENCHALA, Petaling Jaya



Ti-Ratana PENCHALA Community Centre in Petaling Jaya has been busily organizing aid for those in need, with a mobile foodbank under their [Meals on Wheels](#) project. Their Meals on Wheels project has been running for more than 10 years now. The moment a full lockdown was implemented in Selangor, the team led by Sister Catherine, President of Ti-Ratana PJ branch started discussing online about organizing a mobile food delivery programme for those in need.

She and her team of representatives for each small local area in the Klang Valley have managed to help more than hundreds of families and individuals at the time of writing. The team checks websites such as [kitajagakita.com](http://kitajagakita.com) and looks for people in urgent need of food essentials around them. They then contact individuals or families and dispatch out the food they need.

Due to privacy concerns, we have been asked not to publish any photos of the recipients here.



# Ti-Ratana Activity Report

## At Ti-Ratana Youth Section (Mettaworld)



mettaworld presents

### EXCLUSIVE MERCH

Metta. It means loving kindness in the ancient Pali language, a variant of what Lord Buddha spoke. As Buddhists, we should embrace the value of Metta, unconditional loving-kindness for all living beings and let everyone be well and happy. T-shirts, bags, stickers and more available, get yours today! All profits go to our youth group expenses and various charitable organizations.



mettaworld presents

### DESK ESSENTIALS

We're all spending a lot more time at home, We're studying, working and chilling at home. So if you're a mouse over trackpad person, or a gamer, you're definitely going to like our mousepads with exclusive designs, and our coasters which you can use to put drinks on your desk with. All profits go to our youth group expenses and various charitable organizations.

world

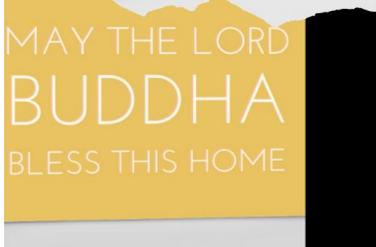
[f](#) [i](#) [t](#) @mettaworld.my | [mettaworld.org](#) 



mettaworld presents

### HOME DECOR

We're all spending a lot more time at home. We're studying, working and chilling at home. Being stuck at home all day isn't that healthy, but we have no choice but to stay home for our safety. Paintings and artwork are a gateway to creating a more relaxing and comfortable atmosphere for you to be in. Browse our exclusive Dhamma-Inspired artwork today. All profits go to our youth group expenses and various charitable organizations, including aids to help those who are in need as a result of lockdowns.



[f](#) [i](#) [t](#) @mettaworld.my | [mettaworld.org](#) 

Mettaworld Buddhist Youth, the brand of Ti-Ratana Buddhist Youth Section has recently launched Dhamma inspired merchandise online. They include T-shirts, tote bags, desk essentials like coasters, mousepads and mugs, and home decor - mainly Dhamma inspired artwork and quotes.

Proceeds from the sales will go to the expenses of the youth group in the future, maintenance of the youth group's current centre (Puchong), as well as charitable organizations, including Ti-Ratana Buddhist Society and Ti-Ratana Welfare Society. For transparency purposes, a monthly report of how much was earned, and where the funds go with evidence will be published by the youth group via their [blog](#).

You can visit the [online store here](#) to make a purchase.

# Ti-Ratana Activity Report



**Wesak** - the celebration of the thrice sacred day of the birth, enlightenment and parinibbana of the Buddha is normally marked by colourful floats lighting up the streets with thousands of people in Malaysia. But for the last two years, things have been a little different. With the Covid-19 pandemic and increasing cases, Ti-Ratana collectively decided to do Wesak online for 2021. All centres had their Wesak live streamed via Facebook and YouTube through a singular feed. A replay of the entire day's events is available on [YouTube](#).

No one could come to the temples to bathe Prince Siddhartha, and many people were deeply saddened by this. But we must remember that rituals are not important in Buddhism. Rather, the significance and teaching behind the rituals are what matter. The significance of bathing the statue of Prince Siddhartha signifies us purifying our minds, spiritually, thinking, "To do good, avoid evil, purify the mind. That is the teaching of all Buddhas." - Dhammapada 14:183.

The important thing is to rid ourselves of the cause of suffering - greed, hatred and delusion for the betterment of ourselves, and humanity.



# Ti-Ratana Activity Report

## Wesak – Ti-Ratana Vihara, Klang



Ti-Ratana Vihara Klang organized a simple Wesak, only with Resident Monk Bhante K Saddha Thero, committee members living nearby and Temple Staff on site. Two Puja sessions were conducted and live streamed in the main Wesak 2021 feed.

# Ti-Ratana Activity Report

## Wesak – Ti-Ratana Lumbini Garden, Puchong



Ti-Ratana Lumbini Garden organized a relatively simple Wesak, with One of the Resident Monks Bhante H. Hemaloka Thero conducting Morning Puja, which was livestreamed to the main Wesak 2021 feed. The centre also participated in the Raise the Buddhist Flag campaign organized by the Selangor Buddhist Development Council.

# Ti-Ratana Activity Report

## Wesak – Ti-Ratana Penchala, Petaling Jaya

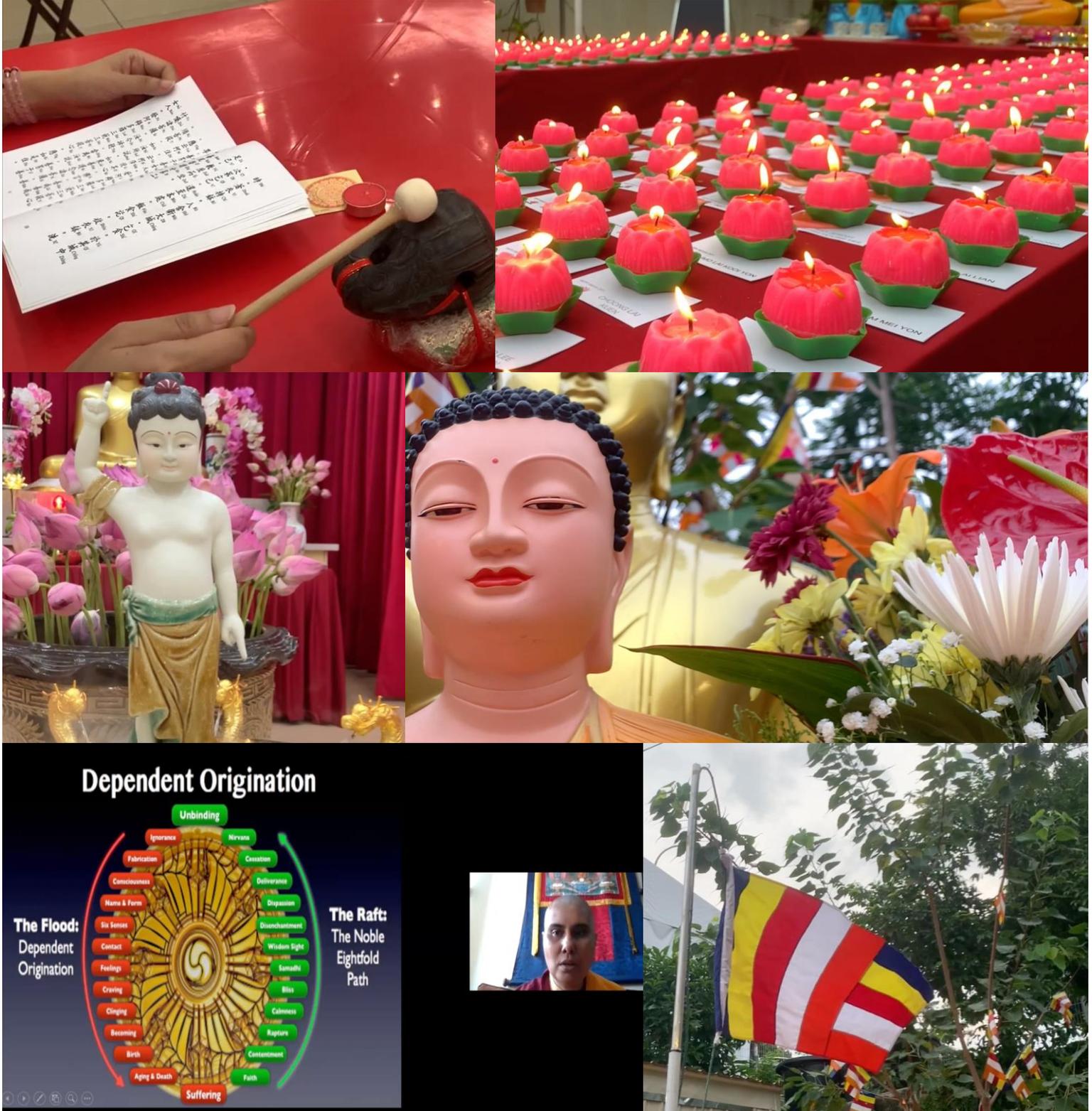


Ti-Ratana Penchala's physical centre remained closed for Wesak 2021, and instead a fully online meditation session was conducted by guest Sangha Member Ven. Saddha Yongjun from his residence.

Ven. Saddha also briefly explained, when asked about the life of a monastic as well as tips to concentrate better during meditation.

# Ti-Ratana Activity Report

## Wesak – Ti-Ratana Cheras and Ti-Ratana Sukha Dhamma School, Taman Bukit Anggerik, Cheras



Ti-Ratana Cheras and Sukha Dhamma School dedicated the entire month of May to Wesak. From the 1st to the 31st of May, Dhamma Talks, Chanting and other special events took place to mark the Holy Day of Wesak. On Wesak Day itself, they brought together all three major traditions of Buddhism. The morning started with Theravada Puja and the Raising of the Buddhist Flag by Bhante H. Hemaloka Thero, Spiritual Advisor to Ti-Ratana Sukha Dhamma School, and then followed by Mahayana recitations and the Buddha Bathing ceremony before noon as well as a performance by the Sukha Choir, with an insightful Dhamma Talk by renowned Vajrayana Buddhist Nun Asst Prof Ven Dr Karma Tashi Chodron on How To Turn Suffering Into Victory in the Evening.

# Ti-Ratana Activity Report

## Wesak – Ti-Ratana Bangsar Pre-Wesak Videoshoot



Ven Datuk K Sri Dhammaratana, Our Founder and Advisor and Buddhist Chief High Priest of Malaysia recorded his Wesak 2021 messages at Ti-Ratana Bangsar prior to Wesak.

# Ti-Ratana Activity Report

Ti-Ratana Taman Bukit Anggerik, Cheras

Upcoming: Guan Yin Bodhisattva's Day of Enlightenment



## Upcoming: Guan Yin Bodhisattva's Day of Enlightenment

Guanyin Bodhisattva had made a vow in the past: "If sentient beings experience pressing suffering & fear, & if they remember me in their minds & call my name, I will hear them with my heavenly ears & see them with my heavenly eyes. Then I will help to free them from troubles & dangers."

Because of Guanyin Bodhisattva's vow, we must devotedly recite Namó Guanyin Bodhisattva in times of troubles & dangers. Guanyin Bodhisattva will surely get us out of troubles & dangers.

In the present times of uncertainty, we must rely on the Bodhisattva's vow of compassion for our family's well-being, to free ourselves from the pandemic & for the blessing of all.

觀世音菩薩過去曾發願；"如有眾生受到逼切的苦難恐懼，只要他們心中念我、稱我名字，我將以天耳聽聞他們的聲音，用天眼見到他們的情況，而救助他們脫離一切災苦。"

正是因為觀音菩薩的大願，所以我們在危難之時，至心稱念南無觀世音菩薩聖號，菩薩定會尋聲救苦的幫助我們。

目前在這人心惶惶的時代裡，仰賴菩薩的慈悲願力，祈求合家平安，遠離疫情，人人吉祥。

Sis Jackie 012 321 8006

觀世音菩薩得道紀念日



PERALTA DE BODHI & BODHIA  
KUALA LUMPUR & SINGAPORE



# Upcoming Activities

Centre	Date	Activity
<i>Bangsar</i>	22/8/2021	Hungry Ghost Festival (Ulambana) Puja
<i>Klang</i>	4/7/2021	Invitation to Vassa for Resident Monks
	10/7/2021	New Moon Puja
	24/7/2021	Full Moon Puja
	28/7/2021	Celebration of the Day of Enlightenment of Guan Yin Bodhisattva
	8/8/2021	New Moon Puja
	9/8/2021	Hungry Ghost Festival (Ulambana) Puja
	22/8/2021	Full Moon Puja
	29/8/2021	Joint Metta Chanting
	1/7/2021 – 14/9/2021	Joint Metta Outreach Programme
<i>Puchong</i>	24/7/2021	Invitation to Vassa for Resident Monk
	22/8/2021	Hungry Ghost Festival (Ulambana) Puja
<i>Cheras</i>	10/7/2021	New Moon Prayers
	24/7/2021	Full Moon Prayers
	28/7/2021	Celebration of the Day of Enlightenment of Guan Yin Bodhisattva
	8/8/2021	New Moon Prayers
	22/8/2021	Hungry Ghost Festival (Ulambana) Prayers
<i>Welfare Society</i>	Ti-Ratana Stand Together Online Concert Live on Facebook   Saturday, 7 <sup>th</sup> August 2021 @ 8pm	



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# Weekly Activities

Centre	When	Activity
Bangsar	Sundays @ 9am <i>Yoga and Recycling Day are suspended until SOPs permit and until further notice</i>	Food Cupboard Packing
Klang	Every Alternate Sunday @ 10am Daily @ 8pm except Friday Every Sunday @ 8:30pm <i>Breakfast and Lunch Dana, Basket Weaving Class, Yoga Class are suspended until SOPs permit and until further notice</i>	Sunday Dhamma School Online Online Bhojanga Puja - Livestreamed on FB Sutta Class by Rev P. Wineetha – via Zoom, FB, YT
Puchong	Every Sunday @ 9am Every Sunday @ 10am Every Sunday @ 11am <i>Yoga Class, Chinese Art, Chinese Calligraphy, In-person Volunteer Sessions, Lunch Dana and Full Moon / New Moon Puja are suspended until SOPs permit and until further notice</i>	Online Puja – Livestreamed on FB & YT Sunday Dhamma School Online Youth Gathering Online
Cheras	Every Sunday @ 10am <i>Qigong (Adults), Taekwondo (Kids), Art Class (Adults/Kids), Sukha Choir and Dhamma Music instrument class are suspended until SOPs permit</i>	Sunday Dhamma School Online
PJ	Daily	Meals on Wheels Programme
Ti-Ratana Bersama Rakyat Welfare Society Bentong	Daily, 9am to 2pm	Food Bank
		N/A for July – Aug 2021

All events are subject to change according to the latest SOPs and announcements. Follow our social media and branches websites for updates.

# Ti-Ratana Welfare Society



## 歌手阵容 Performer Lineup



DJ Leng Yein



Haoren 朱浩仁



Nicole Lai 赖淑凤



Cassidy La Crème



Chilla Cha 谢芯亚



Wen Suen 林文荪



Thomas 郭晓东



Miko Oh 区铢晋



Madison 刘汉杰



Danny One 温力铭



Layla Sania 蕾拉



Daniel Cheah 车志立

2021年8月7日，星期六晚上8点  
7 August 2021, Saturday 8pm



Goh Wee Ping 吴雅彬



Veron Lin 练倩汶

节目主持人  
Hosted by

LIVE  
STREAMING



tiratanawelfaresociety

2021年8月7日，星期六晚上8点  
7 August 2021, Saturday 8pm

# Ti-Ratana Sanctuary Bentong

## Construction Progress as of April 2021

[bentong.ti-ratana.org](http://bentong.ti-ratana.org)





## Our Network of YouTube Channels

# Ti-Ratana

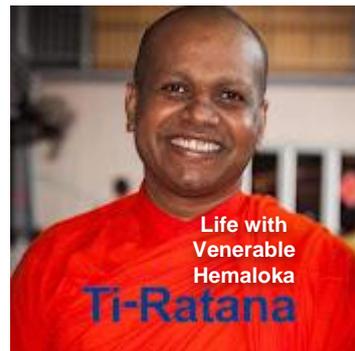
Group

**Ti-Ratana**  
Dhamma Propagation Channel

**Ti-Ratana**  
心法自在



**Ti-Ratana Lumbini Garden**



You can click / tap on the images to go to our channels.

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PERSATUAN BUDDHA TI-RATANA  
KUALA LUMPUR & SELANGOR



Chinese Ink Painting  
& Calligraphy Class



Lumbini Garden Yoga



SDS@TRV



light up health light up women light up elderly folks light up community light up children light up handicap

# OUR CENTRES

## BANGSAR (HQ)



17, Lorong Maroof  
59000 Bangsar  
Kuala Lumpur  
+603 2287 4800  
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## PUCHONG



36 & 38, Jalan Puteri 4/2  
Bandar Puteri, 47100  
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+603 8051 6630 (WhatsApp)  
puchong.ti-ratana.org



## KLANG



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Aman Perdana 41050  
Klang, Selangor  
+6018 382 3132  
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## CHERAS



Lot 6711, Jalan 5/154  
Taman Bukit Anggerik, 56000 Cheras  
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## PETALING JAYA



21, Jalan Penchala  
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## WELFARE SOCIETY



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