



VIEN GIAC BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

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VIEN GIAC TEMPLE

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Covid-19 Open Letter - 2022 Lunar New Year Announcement

Dear Fellow Buddhists ,

This Lunar New Year will be the second year when all Buddhists around the world, along with everyone worldwide, will continue to live with a lot of confusion and worries from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Omicron variant has recently been spreading so quickly in many countries, with governments struggling to respond and citizens feeling unsafe and uncertain.

Being Buddha's disciples, under the current difficult situation we should follow compassionate dharma and know that Buddha passed on boundless dharma in order to help us dissolve and purify all sufferings beyond our current control.

Buddhism is a religion of compassion, Buddha's virtue is love for all sentient beings.

Our kind hearts were already in existence when we were born. Love and tolerance for all sentient beings helps ourselves dissolve and purify all confusing ideas- making natural peacefulness and happiness in our mind- as such they help us to harness all adversities.

We do hope Buddhists should practice gratitude and appreciation in *Four Gratitude teachings*:

- 1- Gratitude for Parents;
- 2- Gratitude for Three Treasures and Teachers;
- 3- Gratitude for Country and Society;
- 4- Gratitude for all Sentient Beings.

Practicing The Four Gratitude is a foundation of ethics which helps us to enhance our respect, love and tolerance towards all sentient beings. As such, we have found out our own proper way to True Happiness .

Let's work together and continue to support all methods to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. We wish Good Health and Safety for everybody around the world to escape from this disastrous pandemic.

During Lunar New Year Season, our Temple is still open to welcome fellow Buddhists who desire to prostrate to Buddha. Our Temple still receives prayer requests for good health and requests for star worshiping and requiem ceremony. Due to the limited space of our Temple, let all of us mindful of Covid-19 Safety.

Best Wishes to all fellow Buddhists and to your families we wish good health, reunion and all desires achieved with complete perfection in the **Year of Tiger**.

Yours in Dharma



Abbess Bhikkhuni Thich An Thien