



VIEN GIAC BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

Incorporation No: Inc 9893874 - ABN 34 326782614

VIEN GIAC TEMPLE

Address: 23 Broad Street, Cabramatta NSW 2166 , Australia

Tel/Fax: (02)8764 8570 * Mobile: 0404 045 678 * Email: chuaviengiac@hotmail.com

Namo Shakyamuni Buddha

Ulumbana Festival-Filial Piety Announcement(Vu Lan -Prayer Offerings for Ancestors) Day)of Buddhism Year 2565 (AD 2021) during the COVID-19 era

Dear Honourable Buddhists members,

Once again, the COVID-19 Pandemic outbreak has affected the Ulumbana Festival in NSW. The traditional Ulumbana Festival-Vu Lan reminds us of filial piety, the expressing of appreciation and gratitude towards our deceased or living parents.

As Buddha's disciples, we wholeheartly understand the full meaning of filial piety being taught by Buddha in Ullamana Sutra. Every year, we gather at the Temple during the seventh lunar month attending this sacred ceremony, offering incense and prayers for our deceased parents and the souls of our ancestors to rest peacefully and be free of worldly attachments in blissful Western Paradise. As for our living parents, we pray that they enjoy a life of abundance and longevity, mindful by reciting Amitabha Buddha in order to be re-born in the Western Pure Land of Amitabha Buddha when passing away.

The adversities of the COVID-19 pandemic have altered everyone's daily activities around the globe and presently the pandemic is affecting NSW, especially our local area, which has led to changes of our daily routines and traditions. In order to prevent this pandemic from spreading across the community, all spiritual and religious organisations' activities are currently paused. This includes Vietnamese Buddhist Temples in the local area complying with lockdown regulations by the Government of NSW, which we fully support.

Under the current situation, as Buddhists we understand the concept of "all things in the Universe begin from our thoughts". This is the teaching of the Buddha. We can express appreciation and gratitude by practicing filial piety at home during the Seventh Lunar Month of this year.

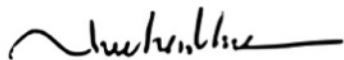
During Seventh Lunar Month we can begin to listen or read the Ulumbana Sultra-filial piety from 1st until 15th of the month and begin the Earth Sotre Bodhisattave Sultra until the end of the month. It is wise to maintain our thoughts, words and actions during the practice of home prayers.

Sincerity and the dedication of virtue and merits to our deceased or living parents accumulated from our Ulumbana Dharmar Festival home practice could be beneficial. As we have learned from Buddha: "Pure and sincerity prayers shall be blessed".

On the occasion of Ulumbana Festival during the year of Metal Ox, may Buddha's Ten Direction bless all Buddhist followers and their families with peacefulness and happiness, and to all beings around the world and our beloved Vietnamese people in our mother land Viet Nam, may we soon overcome the COVID-19 pandemic.

Let us also continue to support the NSW Health system by helping to prevent COVID-19 pandemic from spreading. Vaccination is the key to stopping the spread of the virus and keeping our loved ones safe. We give thanks to the work of healthcare workers and related professions who are working tirelessly to help the sick in our community and to vaccinate our population.

Let us wholeheartly, pray for **Namo Amitabha Buddha**



Abbess Bhikkhuni Thích Nữ An Thiện