



## **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

### ***ULLAMBANA FESTIVAL MESSAGE***

***"Filial Heart is Buddha's Heart  
Filial Piety is Buddha's Piety"***

***Namo Sakyamuni Buddha,  
Dear Buddhist members,***

As disciples of the Buddha, whether we are monks, nuns, or laypeople, we deeply understand the profound significance of the Ullambana Festival. This festival reminds us to honor and commemorate the deep kindness of our parents, whether they are still alive or have passed away.

Historically, during a retreat season when the Buddha was alive, one of his ten great disciples, Maudgalyayama, experienced deep grief. In meditation, he witnessed his deceased mother suffering due to the greed and hatred she harbored in her past life. Overcome with distress, he sought the Buddha's guidance on how to rescue his mother from starvation and suffering in the realm of hungry ghosts.

Despite his considerable inner strength, Maudgalyayama could not alleviate his mother's suffering on his own. The compassionate Buddha then taught him to make offerings to the Triple Gems and the Sangha, and to take refuge on Ullambana Festival Day, specifically on Pavarana Day when the Sangha gathers for the purification of body and mind. Through diligent practice and the inner powers of the Sangha, Maudgalyayama's mother was ultimately rescued from her suffering. Thanks to Maudgalyayama's great filial piety and the vows of the Sangha, his mother was finally saved.

On the occasion of the Ullambana Festival in the Year of the Metal Dragon, Vien Giac congregation pays homage to all Buddhas in the Ten Directions, seeking their blessings for Buddhists and their families to enjoy good health, peacefulness and a meaningful Ullambana Festival.

***NAMO AMITABHA BUDDHA***

***With metta,***

***Abbess Bhikkuni Thich An Thien***

