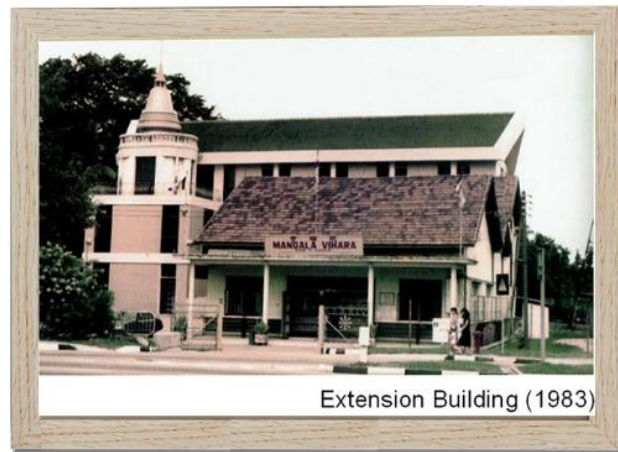




Buddhist & Pali College of Singapore Alumni (BPCA) - Quarterly E-Bulletin

Jan - Mar 2023



Extension Building (1983)

With the establishment of Singapore's endemic norms, many activities could now be organised. In this issue of the e-bulletin, we are pleased to feature a Chinese New Year bonding activity which was organised in February 2023 for students of the Buddhist and Pali College (BPC) Diploma and Degree students, the first since 2019. Part of the bonding activity involved getting to know Mangala Vihara (Buddhist Temple) (MV) and Poh Ming Tse Temple better. Thus, in this issue, we bring you some highlights of these two temples which support BPC Diploma classes.

With the re-opening of borders, the BPC Alumni Committee will be organising a tour to Bangkok / Ayuthaya / Khao Kho in May 2023 and a pilgrimage tour to India in December 2023. Besides, the second run of the *Certificate Course in Buddhist Counselling* will be held physically at MV in August 2023. We will continue to run the *Introduction to Buddhism* courses in Chinese (May – June 2023) and English (July to September 2023).

Thank you for staying in tune with us. If you have any feedback or articles which you would like to contribute, please feel free to drop Sister Tyy Yn an email at tyyynquek@gmail.com.

May all be well, happy and peaceful!

The Editorial Team

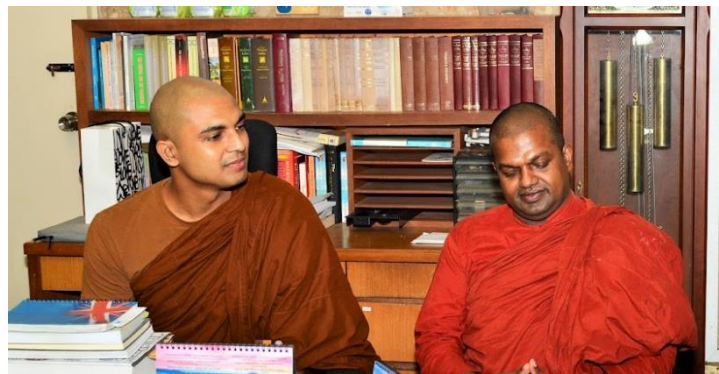


Chinese New Year Bonding Activities

Photo credits: Brother Lau Kim Koon

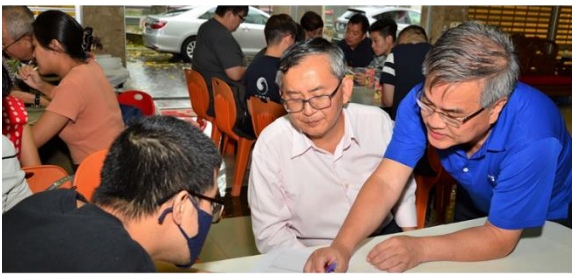


Opening Chanting and Opening Address
Venerable Pupule Seelananda Thero
Principal, Buddhist and Pali College of Singapore



*"Lohei" and Networking
Tea Session among
lecturers and students*





Working together to complete the quiz



Scan here for more photos from Bro KK Lau



Learning more about the Buddha, Mangala Vihara and Poh Ming Tse Temple

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/LtkZSFXTvnrbeapH9>

Treasures of Mangala Vihara (Buddhist Temple)



The Gift of Truth Excels all Gifts

About Mangala Vihara (MV)



The Shrine of Blessings



A centre of learning for the Theravada Buddhist theology

Brief History of MV

References and photo credits from <https://mv.sg/home/history/> and MV 50th Anniversary Celebration Book.



First Main Shrine Hall (1960)

- Founded by the late Bhante M M Jayaweera Mahanayaka Mahāthera (Bhante Mahaweera), a visionary leader who rendered immeasurable services to the cause of Buddhism in Singapore and led MV for 42 years.
- The first 2-storey temple was built in the current location in 1960.
- The land where MV sits today was donated by the late Madam Chew Quee Neo, a Paranakan Chinese lady who was a Buddhist and vegetarian, in 1959 after she knew that Bhante Mahaweera was a vegetarian.
- Bhante Mahaweera planted a sapling of the Maha Bodhi tree from Anuradhapura (the ancient city of Sri Lanka), given to him by the first Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.



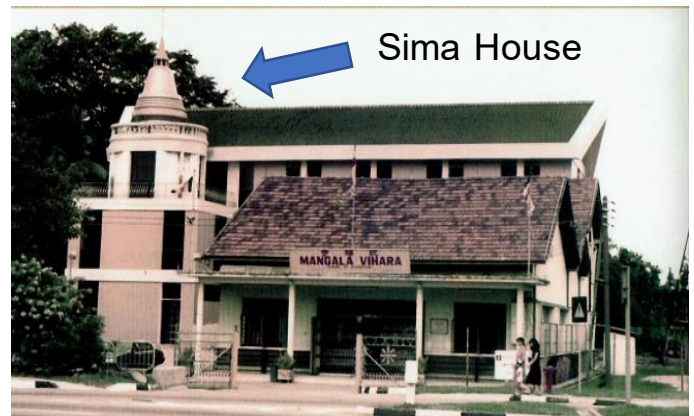
Saduwardena Shield

- A Sunday Dhamma School was formalised based on the syllabi of the Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) of Colombo by Bhante Mahaweera in 1960. The School achieved the best results among the English-medium Dhamma classes in the world in its first year of participating in the examinations, in 1961, and repeatedly in 1962 and 1963. A replica of the Saduwardena Shield was thus awarded to MV for permanent display.

- The first Sima House was built in 1966. On the opening ceremony of the Sima House, a Buddha's image and a Buddha's footprint (displayed in the main Shrine Hall) brought in from Thailand were both unveiled on the same day.
- The 3-storey extension building was completed in 1983 to cater to the rapidly expanding Sunday Dhamma classes.



Sima House as seen from Level 3 classrooms today



Extension Building (1983)

- The Sima House was re-consecrated to the 3rd storey of the new extension building on 23 September 1983 and has remained there since.



- The Buddhist and Pali College of Singapore started in September 1993.



- A new Shrine Hall (the current one) was completed in 1994 to cater to a larger congregation for the conduct of religious activities. It was officially opened by Dr. Wee Kim Wee, Singapore's former President, on 11 July 1999.

- A replica of the original Sanchi Gate in India was also erected at the entrance to MV and was opened by His Excellency, Mr, Nirmal Wijayarathne, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Singapore in 1999.



New Shrine Hall Building (1994)

Do you know?

Relics and Sutta inscribed on Ola Leaves



Buddha's Relic



Arahant Sivali's Relic

1. Buddha's relic and Arahant Sivali's relic are brought out for the public's viewing and veneration once a year, on Vesak Day.

2. On MV's anniversary celebration on 31 March, the *Pirit Mandapaya* (Miniature Shrine) is set up in the main Shrine Hall for the overnight chanting by the monks and devotees to rejoice the Dhamma, encourage the Sangha and give protection and blessings to the devotees.



Photo credit: Brother Patrick Lim

Items, representing the Triple Gem to bring merits and blessings to all beings, were placed in the Miniature Shrine. These include:

- A casket of the sacred Relic of the Buddha
- A scroll of the *Catubhanarara Paritta Sutta* (the Book of Protection) inscribed on Ola leaves. The recitation of it evokes protection for all beings.
- Water and threads which are used for blessings.



Photo credit: Brother Patrick Lim

Sacred Trees



3. We can find the **Sala (Sal) tree**, which played a special role in the life of Gotama Buddha in MV. Prince Siddhartha was born with his mother, Queen Maya, holding on to a branch of this tree; and the Buddha lied down in between two Sala trees during his Mahāparinibbāna.



Sala (Sal) Tree –
“Cannon Balls” Tree



Naga Puspa Tree

Original MV Bodhi Tree

Sapling of original MV Bodhi Tree

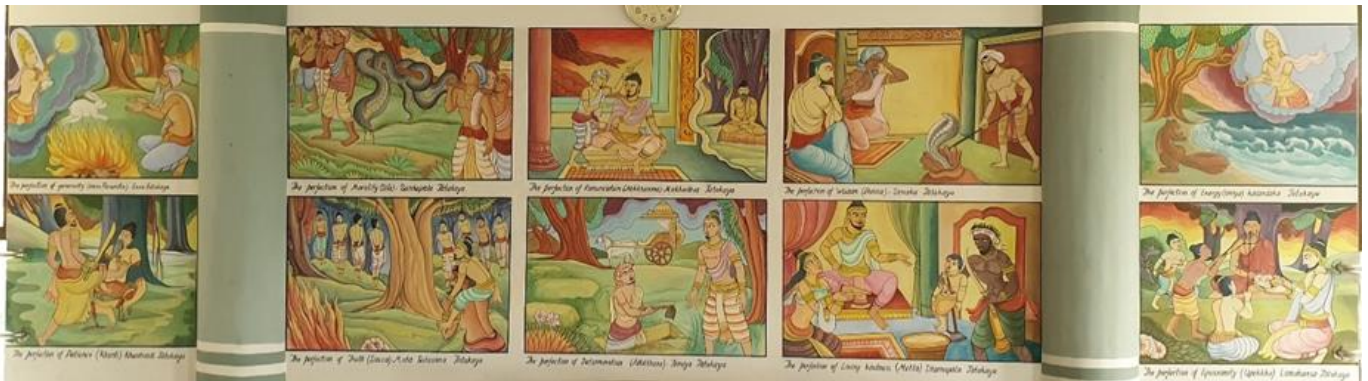
4. The original **Bodhi tree** in MV was a sapling from the Bodhi tree which was brought by Ven. Sanghamitta to Anurādhapura, the ancient city of Sri Lanka, where it was planted by the King, Devanampiya Tissa. To treat a termite infection issue, the original MV Bodhi tree was re-located. A sapling was taken to be planted at the current location (see photograph above).



5. A **Naga Puspa tree** stands beside the original MV Bodhi tree (another one is found outside the Mangala Hall). It is believed to be the chosen species of tree under which the future Buddha, Metteyya (Pali) or Maitreya (Sanskrit) will gain Enlightenment.

Buddhist Art and Architecture

6. There is an array of Buddhist art and architecture in MV. Besides a replica of the original **Sanchi Gate** in India, there are (a) **murals**; (b) **moonstones**; and (c) **guardstones**.



- The **murals** were painted in 1962, 1985 and 1992, featuring stories on the life and perfections of the Buddha, Jataka stories, Kaleidoscopic arrangements of the Buddhist art motifs etc.
- The Ajanta-Sigiri tradition of painting was used for the 9-metre diameter lotus motifs on the ceiling of the Shrine Hall, Jataka stories on Level 2 as well as the ten perfections of the Buddha and decorative motifs on Level 3.



Moonstone

Photo credit: Brother Jason Koo



Photo credit: Brother Jason Koo

- The semi-circular **moonstone**, a common architectural feature in many Theravada Buddhist temples in Sri Lanka, symbolises Samsara. Walking over the moonstone at the entrance into the temple symbolises crossing from the mundane world to reach a higher plane, to transcend Samsaric existence and away from birth, decay, ill-health and death.
- The **Guardstones** are commonly found at the entrances of royal and religious buildings in Sri Lanka, on either side of the staircase beside the moonstone, guarding the entrance to the Shrine Hall.
- In MV, there is another moonstone at the entrance to the Bodhi tree where there is also a statue of the Buddha image.



Bhante M M Jayaweera Mahanayaka Mahāthera passed away on 12 June 2002. A Cetiya was built for his 100th day memorial and the bronze-life-size statue of Bhante was installed on 21 September 2002. His relics were buried in the ground where his status stands.

Although Bhante Mahaweera may not be with us, we will always remember the legacy he left behind.





This article is summarised from the information published on the MV website and the MV 50th Anniversary Celebration Book.


We would also like to thank:

- Sis Sandra Koh for bringing the editorial team on a MV tour; and
- Sis Linda Sim for advising on the article.

Uniqueness of Poh Ming Tse Temple

- *A second venue for the Diploma in Buddhism Course*
- *Located at 438 Dunearn Road (Bukit Timah area)*

About Poh Ming Tse Temple (PMT)

 The temple of illumination, or the temple of abundant brightness

 *A non-sectarian platform to support all teachings of the Buddha*



The logo is inspired by the Sanskrit word 'pāramitā', which means 'perfection', but can also mean "to cross to the other shore".

The six pāramitās are generosity, morality, patience, diligence, concentration and wisdom.

Brief History of PMT



PMT was founded in 1934. The founder of the temple, Upasika Chen Miao Hua ('Upasika' refers to a lay female Buddhist), later entrusted the temple to Upasika Lin Miao Deng.



Expanded to include the neighbour's bungalow in 1980s.



The current temple comprised a 3-storey building and a basement, was completed in end 2009.

Do you know?



1. A key feature of PMT's external façade is the 12-metre-high curved glass curtain wall, reminiscent of a traditional Chinese scroll. Each glass panel is unique and finding a replacement piece is tough. The bamboo decalcomania depicted on the "scroll" is symbolic of the Buddhists' aspiration to reach the stage of "emptiness", or Nibbāna.

Reference: <https://parkassociates.com.sg/individual-work.php?id=10>



The scripture which was inscribed on the glass wall is the Great Compassion Mantra, 大悲咒.



2. This is the adjacent bungalow which now serves as a living quarter for resident sangha members. There is also a shrine hall where devotees are welcome to pay their respects and make offerings of joss sticks.



3. The main hall is located on the third floor. Here, one can find a large white marble Buddha statue which was custom-made in China, using 5 tonnes of marble from India.



4. The library on the first floor is the venue for the BPC Diploma classes. Just outside the library is the Metteyya Bodhisatta (Pali) or Maitreya Bodhisattva (Sanskrit). Notice the candles on the right? Devotees may purchase them to make offerings to Bodhisatta.



5. The *Hall of Gratitude*, located in the basement, provides a place to house ancestral tablets, emphasising the importance of filial piety.



This article is made possible with the kind assistance from Brother Wilson Lui.

"Thank you, Brother Wilson, for providing these insights and showing some of the BPCA committee members around PMT!"

Upcoming Trips

5D4N BANGKOK / AYUTHAYA / KHAO KHO

11 – 15 May 2023

Singapore Airlines Flight Itinerary

Departure: 11 May 9.50am

Arrival: 15 May: 6.55pm

Twin/Triple Sharing:

Sgd \$1,550 per adult

Single:

Sgd \$1,790 per adult

Prices subject to air ticket price fluctuation

All meals included are vegetarian

Trip Highlights#

Ayuthaya

Ayuthaya Historical Park

Chao Sam Phraya National Museum

Wat Phra Mahathat

Wat Sri Sanphet

Wat Lokaya Sutharam

Khao Kho

Wat Phrathat Pha Son Keaw

Khao Kho Windmill Field

Phu Thap Buek

Bn Farm

#Itinerary subject to change

Group size:

25 – 40 (includes 2 Bhantes)

Registration Closing Date: 15 April

subject to capacity and first come first serve basis

Enquiries: Brother Adrian (9022 5585)



Upcoming Trips

11D 9N Footsteps of Buddha India Pilgrimage Trip 15th - 26th Dec 2023

Trip Highlights***

Delhi

Varanasi

Ganges River sunrise cruise

Sarnath

Dhamekh Stupa

Bodhgaya

Maha Bodhi Temple

Rajgir

Nalanda

Nalanda University

Vaishali

Kushinagar

MahaPariNirvana Temple

Lumbini

Mayadevi Temple

Kapilvastu

Sravasti

Jetavana Vihara

Twin / triple: Sgd \$3200* / adult

Single: Sgd \$3900* / adult

Singapore Airlines Flight itinary

Departure 16 Dec Singapore 2.25 am

Arrival 26 Dec Singapore 6.05 am

Group Size : 25-35 (including 2 Bhantes)

Registration closing date: 16 May**

Further enquiry:

Bro Adrian (9022 5585)

*Prices subject to air ticket fluctuation

**Subject to capacity and first come first serve basis

****All vegetarian meals

***Itinerary subject to change

Upcoming Courses



2023佛学简介 基本佛学介绍

由新加坡佛学与巴利文学院讲师授课

课程详情

日期: 2023年5月3日
次数: 每周三, (八堂课)
时间: 7.30pm 至 9.00pm
地点: Mangala Vihara 祝福寺
30 Jalan Eunos S419495

课程报名

学费: 随喜乐捐
邮件: chinesebuddhismbpca@gmail.com
电话: 8288 9888 Sister Lynn Choy

课程内容

1. 佛学中的自由探讨, 古印度社会
2. 佛陀的一生
3. 四圣谛, 三法印
4. 轮回, 业力
5. 十二因缘
6. 在家人如何实践佛学
7. 常见的佛教仪式与诵经, 佛教短篇小说《法句经》
8. 内观融入生活

请勿随意外贴此海报, 谢谢

Upcoming Courses

Introduction to

Buddhism Course

July 2023 (25th Intake)

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

Course Details:

Course Date : 12th July to 20th Sept 2023 (10 weeks)

Frequency : Every Wednesday 7.30pm to 9.30pm

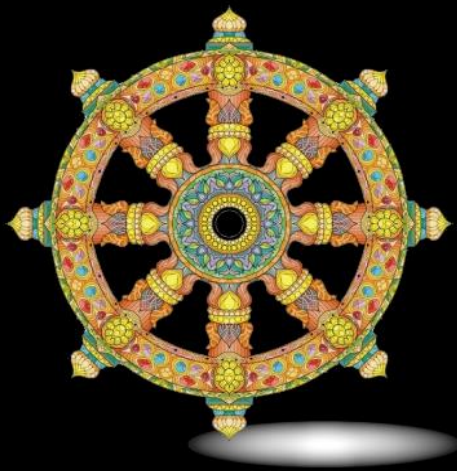
Venue : Mangala Vihara Buddhist Temple
30 Jalan Eunos, S'pore 419495 (Opposite Eunos MRT)

Course Fees : By donation

Email : Intro2buddhismbpca@gmail.com

Tel : Sis. Lynn @ 8288 9888

Instructors : By experienced Dhamma Teachers



Topics are covered in plain and simple language and include:

The Freedom of Inquiry in Buddhism, the Life of the Buddha, the 3 Characteristics of Existence, the 4 Noble Truths and the Noble 8 Fold Path, Rebirth and Kamma, the Buddhist Texts, How to Practise Buddhism, the Different Buddhist Traditions, the Meaning of Common Buddhist Rituals and Chanting, Buddhist Meditation.

Organized by the Buddhist & Pali College of Singapore

Not authorised for hard copy print and distribution

Upcoming Courses



Certificate Course in Buddhist Counselling

11 to 20 August 2023

Organised by

Buddhist and Pali College of Singapore Alumni Committee

About the Course

It aims to provide elementary knowledge of counselling principles of Buddhist psychology and to show their applicability and practicability in resolving psychological problems in daily life.

Special attention is paid to the therapeutic values of Insight and Tranquillity meditation.

Modes of delivery: Lectures, role play and actual case studies

Course Content

1. Nature of Buddhist Counselling Psychology
2. Theories of Buddhist Counselling
3. Buddhist Analysis of Psychopathology, Mental Disorders and Abnormal Behaviours
4. Counselling Skills and Code of Ethics
5. Buddhist Counselling Approaches and Techniques
6. Relevance of Buddhist Counselling for Resolving Psychological Problems

**70% attendance is required to be awarded the Certificate in Buddhist Counselling*

Dates and Venue

11 to 20 August 2023 (30 hours over 10 days)

Monday to Friday: 7.30pm to 9.30pm

Saturday: 9am to 12noon, 2pm to 5pm

Sunday: 2pm to 5pm

Mangala Vihara (Buddhist Temple)

30 Jalan Eunus Singapore 419495

Registration and enquiries

Please whatsapp to Sister Jasline at 8333 4813

About the Trainer

Professor Wasantha Priyadharsana

*Postgraduate Institute of Pali and
Buddhist Studies, University of
Kelaniya, Sri Lanka*

*Visiting Professor, Buddhadharma
Centre of Hong Kong*

Fees

Registration fee: \$50 non-refundable

Course fee: Free

Donation to defray costs is welcome.

Limited to 100 pax; priority will be given to BPCA alumni and MV-related group members

Current School Activities

- **Buddhist and Pali College Courses**

All courses are on-going:

- Diploma in Buddhism 2022/2023
- Bachelor of Arts in Buddhist Studies
- Master of Arts in Buddhist Studies

Upcoming Activities

- **Buddhist and Pali College Courses**

Course	Course Date
Introduction to Buddhism (in Chinese)	3 May to 24 June 2023 (every Wednesday except last lesson on Saturday; 8 sessions)
Introduction to Buddhism (in English)	12 July to 20 September 2023 (every Wednesday, 10 sessions)
Certificate in Buddhist Counselling	11 to 20 August 2023 (total about 30 hours)
Diploma in Buddhism 2023/2024	Preview: September 2023 Start Date: 17 October 2023

- **Vesak Day Celebration**

- 2 June 2023

- **Bhante P Gnanarama Anunayaka Mahāthera Memorial Day**

- 10 June 2023

- **Buddhist and Pali College 30th Anniversary Symposium**

- 9 September 2023

For more information, please contact:

Address	30 Jalan Eunus Singapore 419495
Tel	8288-9888
Email	bpc2017sg@gmail.com
BPC website	https://bpc.edu.sg
BPC Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/bpcsin