



SLSBS NEWSLETTER

June 2014 - Poson 2557

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Did You know?

You can pay your membership by direct debit.

The temple relies on your regular membership payment for its upkeep.



Poson Poya

Ah Poson! Second only to Vesak in our hearts and minds. On such a day, three centuries after the passing away of the Buddha, the arrival of Arahat Mahinda heralded the beginning

of our culture as we know it. Everything we are as Sinhalese can be traced back to that auspicious day. Our language, our customs, arts, literature, culture was shaped by that blessed and fortunate encounter at Mihintale.

Over the centuries Buddhism in Sri Lanka has had its ups and downs. The ups were during the Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa periods when Sinhala culture blossomed, the economy boomed and Sri Lanka was the granary of the region. Theravada Buddhism as practised in Thailand and Burma today was taken to these countries by Sinhalese monks. Nuns from Sri Lanka travelled to China taking with them the Bhikkhuni Sasana. Lanka was a centre of learning and monks came from lands far away to study. The downs came with droughts and famine when monks who depend on dana for existence could not survive; with invasions from India and worst of all, colonisation by European powers. Still we kept the light of the Dhamma shining bright.

*But that is the past. What of
now?
Is Sri Lanka still a
Dhammadipa?
A shining light?*

Recently at an after bana discussion, several people questioned the validity of karma and rebirth – the topic of the evening’s discourse. It was shocking to see how many **didn’t** believe in rebirth, or had a distorted view of it. Almost all the adults present were educated in Sri Lanka and had probably studied 3 hours of Buddhism a week at school and had obtained credit passes at least at the O Levels.

What went wrong with Buddhism in Sri Lanka that so many educated people do not believe in the basics? Without understanding or accepting karma and rebirth, there is no ‘samma ditthi’ – Right View - the first step in the Noble Eightfold Path. Can one without Right View truly be a Buddhist?

Could that be the reason why there seem to be more people who do not keep the five basic precepts of morality, than those who do? Because they do not believe that wrong or immoral actions have corresponding results? Could that be why corruption, bribery, abuse of children and women, murder, cheating and indulging in sense pleasure to extremes, wastage of resources – the list goes on - is widespread in Sri Lanka?

What is the future of the Buddha Sasana in Sri Lanka? What is our role in preserving it? Is it our duty?

Food for Thought on this Poson Poya day.

Vesak Photo Gallery



<http://goo.gl/Vq8NG4>

Pictures courtesy of Anoma Gunawardena our unofficial photographer –

Poson Programme

Ven Sobhita Thero will give a discourse on the Cullahatthipadopama sutta – the sermon given by Arahant Mahinda to King Devanampiyatissa at Mihintale.

The sutta starts with a conversation between the Brahmin Janussoni and the wanderer Pilotika about the greatness of the Buddha. Pilotika uses the comparison of a woodsman tracking down a bull elephant by observing footprints, marks left on trees, to confirming his saddha in the Buddha by finding in him the marks of a great teacher.

Later this conversation is repeated to the Buddha, who explains how a disciple becomes absolutely sure of the truth of his teachings only after investigation and seeing the Truth for himself. He then presents an account of the step-by-step training of a person who seeks the end of suffering - Nirvana.

Saturday 14 June

Atasil Programme	8.00am to 4.00pm
Poson bana	4.00pm
Lighting of the kuduwa	5.30pm

June has been a relatively quiet month with the committee heaving a sigh of relief that all the excitement and work connected with Vesak, the Food Fair, and the staging of 'Suddek Oba Amatayi' is behind them.

'Suddek' was a success despite the committee worrying that enough tickets hadn't been sold. With many shows coming to Perth we feared we might only break even with many tickets unsold. As news of the show's popularity and success in the East trickled over, ticket sales increased. We would like to thank most sincerely all who supported the SLSBS by buying tickets.

Temple finances are always a great worry. We seem to run 'on the rim' most of the time. We haven't been able to relax even after two successful fundraisers added \$22,000 to our 'bungkoloth' coffers. The Treasurer informed us that membership payments are lower than for the same period last year despite an increase in membership. As membership payments are our only regular income we urge members to bring payments up to date.



SLSBS Banking Details

Here are our banking details so that you may make your membership payments. You can check with Treasurer Rohini Liyanage rohini.liyanage.7@gmail.com with CC to Anoja Chandratilleke anojachand@gmail.com if you want an update of your membership payments.

Payment can be made via internet banking. Please inform Treasurer Rohini Liyanage rohini.liyanage.7@gmail.com that you have made a payment.

When a deposit of cash or cheque is made, please remember to enter a reference number on the deposit slip. There is a field to enter under the heading 'Agent Deposit Reference'. It should be completed by entering only numbers. Please enter your phone number. In this way contact can be made if necessary. You must indicate if the payment is for membership, building fund, atavisi puja etc.

You could also pay by cash or cheque in person at the temple. Ven. Sobhitha will issue a temporary receipt and tax receipts will be issued at the end of the financial year.

ACCOUNT DETAILS

ACCOUNT NAME: SRI LANKAN SINHALESE BUDDHIST SOCIETY

BANK: ANZ

BSB: 016 002

ACCOUNT NO: 498 831 089



Regular Programmes

ATASIL OBSERVANCE

Saturday June 14

WEEKLY BANA

Sundays

Buddha puja at 6.00pm followed by a Dhamma Desana

MEDITATION

2nd and 4th Wednesdays – at 7.15 pm – guided meditation with Ven. Sobhitha Thero

3rd Wednesday [June 18] – unguided meditation

SUTTA DISCUSSION

1st Wednesday