

Hongwanji Buddhist Mission of Australia

シドニー本願寺報

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今年の花祭りをお勤めしました！ 4月8日(日)



花まつりにお参り下さった皆さん、前列左から渡部鈴(りん)、由信&頌(しょう)、デビッドソン・ピクターさん、ヒールスミス・マーク師、渡部開教使、定光大燈師、三井綾子さん、後列左から多田喜巳さん&玲於那君、ラドナー・マックスさん、デビッドソン・ジルさん、堀出美代子さん、フオング・ラズロ君&ノーマンさん、奥山裕子さん、徐秀珍さん、陳俊霖さん、加藤朱公子さん、&賢武君。(08/04/18)



去る4月8日の日曜日、開教事務所にて、お釈迦様がこの世にお生まれになられたことをお祝いする「花まつり」の法要を、今年は23人の皆さんと共に、賑やかに勤めすることができました。

この日は日本語講師に広島県庄原市西楽寺、前ご住職の定光大燈師を、英語

講師にキャンベラからマーク・ヒールスミス師を迎え、有り難いご縁の一時を結ばさせて頂きました。また、この日、仏具店を営む陳俊霖&徐秀珍ご夫妻がお参り下さったのは有り難いご縁でした。



開教事務所入口の案内板(08/04/18)

法要の前の週は夏を思わせる陽気でしたが、当日は清々しい一日となり、法要日和となりました。

午前11時から始められた法要では、お参り下さった皆さんを歓迎する開式の言葉の後、まずは、英語で『ルンビニの園』を合唱。それに続いて、三帰依をあげ『十二礼』のお勤めを致しました。そして参拝者が順に、お焼香をした後、綺麗に荘厳された



花祭り用に荘厳されたお内陣(8/04/18)

花御堂の中に右手を挙げ、左手で地面を指差し、堂々と立つ誕生仏に甘茶をおかけする「灌仏(かんぶつ)」が行われました。子供たちはもちろんのこと、参列した大人も一番楽しみにし

(2ページへつづく)

5月20日(日) 降誕会 & 年次 総会 午前11時より

親鸞聖人の誕生を一緒に祝い致します。またHBMAの将来を決める大切な総会への出席もよろしくお願ひ致します。
(お斎の一品持ちよりもよろしくお願ひします!)

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★ お寺の予定表 - Calendar ★

- Apr 22(Sun) 11:00 am 日曜礼拝/Sunday Service
- 24(Tue) 5:30 pm Anzac Day Eve Peace Event in Lismore/リスモア市平和式典
- 25(Wed) 11:00 am Anzac Day with a Difference in Lismore
- 29(Sun) < 休座 >
- May 2 (Wed) 7:30 pm Spirituality in the Pub Paddington/パブで仏教講話
- 6 (Sun) 11:00 am 五月祥月法要/May Shotsuki Memorial
- 13(Sun) 11:00 am 日曜礼拝/Sunday Service
- 20(Sun) 11:00 am 降誕会&年次総会/Gotan-e & HBMA AGM
Please bring one dish! お昼はポットラック
- 21 (Mon) [本願寺報発行 / New Bulletin Issue]
- 27 (Sun) 10:30 am Vesak Interfaith Prayer for Peace @ Phuoc Hue Temple
< 休座 No Service at HBMA >
- Jun 3 (Sun) 11:00 am 六月祥月法要 / June Shotsuki Memorial Service





『…浄土真宗のお寺で花祭りの行事をする意味は、人間に生まれて「いのち」をいただいたからこそこの境涯で仏法(お念仏の教え)を聞くことが出来るありがたさをお礼申すことであります。…』
(定光先生のご話より)



マーク師のご話



花祭り法要差定

(1ページより)

ている瞬間です。とても緊張した中にも、わくわくしながら杓子を手に優しく誕生仏に甘茶を注いでいました。大変微笑ましいひと時でした。

花まつりは、お釈迦様がこの世にお生まれになったことを喜び祝う、いのちの祭典の日です。その有難いご縁の日に、フォング家のラズロ君、加藤家の賢武(たけむ)君、多田家の玲於那(れおな)君そして我が家の四人・由信、亜美、鈴、頌の、7人の子供たちが法要を賑やかなものしてくれました！



灌仏をするピクターさん(上)とマイケルさん



法話はまずマーク師より英語で、観無量寿経からの法話(英語面参照)を頂いた後、定光大燈師が、用意された画像を映しながら、花祭りの歴史、安芸門徒と呼ばれる熱心な広島のお同行のお念仏を基本にした日暮し、そして真宗のお寺で花祭りを催す意義について、子供達にも分かるように英語も少し交えてご話を頂きました。

お参りの最後には『花祭り行進曲』を歌い、この日の法要をつつがなく終えることができました。

そして、待ちに待ったお齋(とき)の時間、お参りされた皆さんが持ち寄って下さったお料理を美味しく頂きました。この紙面を借りましてお料理を持って来て下さった、デイビッドソン夫妻、奥山裕子さん、三井綾子さん、ラドナーマックスさん、陳俊霖&徐秀珍さん、フォング・ノーマンさん、加藤朱公子(あきこ)さん、堀出美代子さん、多田喜巳(よしみ)さん、そして家内の由紀美へお礼申し上げます。ありがとうございました。



皆様、美味しいお齋をご用意頂き有難うございました！

今年の花まつりに参拝して下さい下さった一人一人の皆様は今一度深くお礼申しあげますとともに、皆様のお陰をもちまして、今年も無事にお釈迦様の誕生日をお祝いすることができましたことを、感謝申し上げます。本当にようこそお参りくださいました。

合掌

オーストラリア開教事務所長 渡部重信



花祭り・法話

備後教区比婆組 西楽寺
前住職 定光 大燈 師



定光大燈師

「花祭り」とは、お釈迦様のお誕生を祝う仏教行事で、日本では「灌仏会」ともいわれ、4月8日に行われます。日本で最初に行われたのは聖徳太子の時代だと言われていますが、奈良時代には大きなお寺に広まり、平安時代にはお寺の年中行事となったようです。江戸時代になりますと、「読み・書き・そろばん」といわれる初等教育をになった寺院の一つの社会的機能を果たした寺子屋で「花祭り」が行われるようになり、仏教行事として庶民に広まりました。

お釈迦様は、今から約2600年前インドのカピラ城(ネパール領の説もある)で、浄飯王と摩耶夫人の間にお生まれになられました。誕生されますと、東西南北に七歩ずつ歩かれて、右手で天を、左手で地を指され「天上天下唯我独尊」と言われたと説かれています。「自分だけが尊い」という言葉通りのように誤解されることが多いですが、本来の意味は「この世、大宇宙広しといえども自分という存在は誰にも変わることをできない人間として、生まれており、このいのちのまま尊い」といただくことが大切だといわれています。つまり、私たちにとって「人間に生まれた時にしか果たすことのできない、たった一つの目的がある」というお釈迦様の教えとしていただくのです。

七歩とは、6歩(地獄・餓鬼・畜生・修羅・人間・天上の六道を表す)+1歩で、その一歩あゆみで六道を離れる(六道の輪廻転生を離れる)ことを意味しています。人間に生まれた時にのみ悟りを開き仏に成ることができ、迷いの苦しみから離れ本当の幸せを得ることが出来るのです。人間界のみ成仏できるという尊い「いのち」を得たことの意味をあらわしています。

また六道を経巡るいのちも、人間界に生まれ仏法に出会うことが出来る「いのち」でありますから、どのような「いのち」尊いわけです。

(3ページにつづく)



歌津御院(西楽寺)花まつり 平成2年5月13日

定光先生の西楽寺で勤められた花祭り法要(13/05/1990)

お念仏をいただく浄土真宗の門徒は生活の中に「いのち」を大切に作る習慣がありました。広島地方の浄土真宗の門徒を特に「安芸門徒」と呼んでいます。その生活の中に特徴的なのが「殺生を出来るだけ避ける」といったことが身につけていました。今ではそうした習慣・特徴が失われてきつつありますが、元広島大学の教授で歴史研究者の有元正雄氏の研究では、江戸時代から明治にかけて次のような安芸門徒の特徴をあげておられます。

親鸞聖人のご命日の前日「お逮夜」(「おたんや」とも言う)には瀬戸内海地方の漁師たちは漁に出ず、聖人のご命日にはお精進をしました。また、明治政府が農家の副収入に養蚕事業を勧めるも、まゆを熱湯に浸け、蚕の命が奪われるのがむごい(かわいそう)と奨励に積極的に応じなかったとのこと。

どんな凶作飢饉の年でも、仏さまから頂きたいのちだから生まれてきた赤ちゃんの間引きは避けたという。その結果、子だくさんの家庭が多かった。(南米・北米・ハワイなどの移民に浄土真宗の門徒が多く、明治政府の移民政策に応じたのは、どこで亡くなくてもお浄土に生まれる、というお念仏の教えに支えがあったのであろう)

浄土真宗のお寺で花祭りの行事をする意味は、人間に生まれて「いのち」をいただいたからこそこの境涯で仏法(お念仏の教え)を聞くことが出来るありがたさをお礼申すことであります。このことを親鸞聖人はお正信偈の中で

「如来所以興出世 唯説弥陀本願海」
 「教主世尊は 弥陀仏の
 誓いとのかんと 生(あ)れたもう」(しんじんのうた)
 と教えてくださっています。

合掌



(上)定光先生の自坊での釈迦誕生佛。(下)2014年の花祭りの様子。過疎が進んでいるとのこと。



豪州最大のボランティア活動レーンコープ国立公園にて
クリーンアップ・オーストラリア・ディに参加!



毎年恒例の、オーストラリア最大のコミュニティボランティア活動の日、クリーンアップ・オーストラリアディの3月4日(日)、お寺のメンバーや、シドニー日本クラブ(JCS)、シドニー日本人会(JSS)の会員が共に集い、清掃活動を行いました。今年も、120人程の参加者がレーンコープ国立公園に集い、ゴミを拾い、最後にはBBQと一緒に頂き交流を深めました。 合掌

今月のことば

えしん
回心というは

じりき しん

自力の心を

ひるがえし

すつるをいうなり

唯信抄文意



親鸞聖人(1173年-1263年)

“Conversion means
Overturning
and discarding
self-power.”

《Notes on ‘Essentials of Faith Alone’》
by Shinran Shonin (1173-1263)



真宗教団連合刊

「2018(平成29年)法語カレンダー」より

東日本大震災七周年追悼法要/イベント開催



2011年に発生した東日本大震災から7年目を迎え、3月11日(日)午前11時から、開教事務所にて東日本大震災物故者七周年追悼法要が執り行われ、参列された皆様と共に、七年前の地震や津波で亡くなられた方々を追悼致しました。



また、同日午後からは、シドニー日本クラブのレインボープロジェクト主催で、当開教事務所等が協賛し、クローズドセンターにて500人以上の参加者と共に盛大に追悼イベントが行われました。その中でのメインの行事として追悼の黙禱が行われ、今年も読経をさせて頂きました。読経に続き、地震の発生時刻丁度の午後4時46分(日本時間2時46分)には鑿(きん)を鳴らし、一分間の黙禱を参加者全員で捧げ、犠牲者に想いを馳せたことでした。 合掌



今年から仏教クラスを教え始めたゴードン・ウェスト小学校でのスク립チャークラスにて。お釈迦様の誕生をお祝いして灌仏を一人一人行いました。みんなとても嬉しそうでした! (11/4/18)



ようこそ!
オーストラリア開教事務所へ
Welcome to HBMA!

清原 華蓮 (かれん) さん
長崎教区平戸組正福寺衆徒

3月初旬の一週間程、シドニーに修学旅行でホームステイをしていた清原華蓮さんが、ホームステイファミリーと共に3月11日の東日本大震災物故者追悼法要の際に開教事務所を訪問して一緒にお参り下さいました。本当によろそご縁でした。 合掌 渡部



五月の祥月法要

May Shotsuki Memorial Service

Iriguchi, Kumao

入口 熊男 様 (1979)

上記の方が5月に祥月を迎えられます。ご家族、或はご縁のございます方は、来月5月6日の午前11時より厳修されます祥月法要にどうぞお参り下さいませ。

ご 懇 念 録

Expression of Dana/Gratitude



この一ヶ月間で、下記の皆様より総計 3,485.00ドルのご懇志をご進納いただきました。

また、お賽銭箱に、計25ドルが浄財として参拝者より喜捨して頂きました。この浄財は本願寺設立基金へ進納されました。有り難うございました。 合掌

In the past month, donations to the amount of \$3,485.00 were offered to the Amida Buddha through the Hongwanji Buddhist Mission of Australia. HBMA members and attendants have also deposited \$25.00 in the donation box. The HBMA acknowledges the donors and would like to express our sincere gratitude to the following for their generous donations:

- * Ms Mihoko Nishiura - Husband (Mr Terry Nishiura)'s funeral
- * Mr Iseo Kamiya (Japan) - Oversea supporter membership (3 years)
- * Mr Graham Ranft - Membership pledge (One year)
- * Ms Hiroko Okuyama - Membership pledge (One year)
- * Mr Maximilian Nilsson-Ladner - Membership pledge (One year) **New Member!**
- * Mr Yoshikazu Shiobara (Japan) - Oversea supporter membership (One Year)
- * Ms Yoshiko Gault - Special contribution
- * Ms Ayako Mitsui-Browne - Donation
- * Ms Akiko Minami (QLD) - Donation
- * Ms Shizuko Takeda Fehlner - Donation
- * Buddhist Council of NSW - Chaplain fund
- * Japan Club of Sydney - Printing Honorarium



Thank you very much in Gassho

Seventh year Memorial of the 2011 East Japan Earthquake & Fukushima Disaster Commemoration on Sunday 11 March 2018 @ Crows Nest Centre



BULLETIN



Rev Watanabe once again offered chanting commemorating all the victims caused by the Earthquake in 2011. (11 March 2018)



Seven years have already passed since the huge earthquake and tsunami struck the north-east of Japan on 11 March 2011.

This tragedy left more than twenty thousand people dead or missing. We can never forget the images we saw on television that day of the black, wall-like tsunami rushing over the Sendai Plain at tremendous speed. The images of many fishermen bravely heading out to sea in order to safeguard their vessels are also etched deeply into our minds. The nuclear power plant accident, which followed the earthquake and tsunami, has forced many people to leave the places where they used to live because of radioactive contamination. Efforts are being made to improve the situation, but our hearts ache to think of the people who are even now unable to go back to their own homes.

The Japanese community, **Japan Club of Sydney**, where Rev Watanabe gives support as one of the board



Group photo with all the Tohoku Uni students and Japan Club of Sydney Rainbow Project volunteers after the event. (11/03/18)

members for more than a decade, once again organised a special commemorative ceremony as part of the “**Rainbow Project**”. It was held on 11 March at the Crows Nest Centre where over **five hundred people** gathered.



Over 500 people gathered for this commemorative event at the Crows Nest Centre.

The event was started off with powerful Taiko/Drum performance at 3:30pm, which was followed by Karate performance, Eisa Dance, and few songs. Then, Rev Watanabe delivered a message and chanted a sutra. Then he lead a minute’s silence, called “**Mokuto**” at exactly 4:46pm (2:46pm Japan time), which is the precise moment that the 9.0 magnitude undersea earthquake hit.



Professor Shiobara, longtime HBMA oversea supporter also joined this event. (11/03/18)

This event was a great success and was supported by many Sydneysiders and also visitors from Japan.

Welcome to HBMA !

New Member

Mr Maximilian (Max) Johan Nilsson-Ladner
Sydney, NSW

We hope you will enjoy the life of Nembutsu, and listening to the Dharma. Please try to share our wonderful teaching of the Nembutsu with everyone you talk to. In Gassho,

Welcome to HBMA ! 11 March 2018

Miss Karen Kiyohara (Japan) & Mia & Mal Rajamantri (Pennant Hills)

Thank you for visiting HBMA! **Karen**, who was born into a Temple family in Japan, was home-staying at Mal and Mia’s house while she was studying English. In Gassho,

(Front L-R) Rev, Mal, Karen and Mia, (Back L-R) Sho, Max, Hiroko, Ayako, Ami & Rin

the drama of Vaidehi were all 'great sages' acting out their parts with the compassionate intention to demonstrate the right intention of Vaidehi's selection of the Western Land of Utmost Bliss. And, the Sutra tells us, when she had made her selection, the 'World-Honoured One smiled'.



Rev Healsmith delivering Dharma message during Hanamatsuri service. (08/04/18)

Shinran Shonin further teaches that 'implicit'

'refers to disclosing the Tathagata's universal Vow and revealing the mind that is single, to which [practicers of the three minds] are led through Amida's benefitting of others...Through the condition brought about by the right intention in Vaidehi's selection, Amida's Primal Vow of great compassion was clarified.'

(The Collected Works of Shinran, p212)

It is not the three minds that are essential. The three minds are the fruit of self-power practice and vary depending on the ability of the individual practitioner. It is 'the mind that is single, which arises from Amida's benefitting of others' that is essential and the mind that is single is the mind of great faith, of shinjin given by Amida Buddha. It is by saying the nembutsu that we leave self-power practice behind and are embraced by the compassion of the Tathagata and given His mind as great faith.

Again, from the Kyogyoshinsho

'In its implicit meaning the sutra discloses the true and real dharma that is difficult to accept. It reveals the inconceivable ocean of the Vow, seeking to bring beings to take refuge in the ocean of unhindered great shinjin...

Solely though the greatness of Amida's universal vow, Foolish beings, when they become mindful of it, are immediately brought to attain birth.'

(The Collected Works of Shinran, p 226)

In the Kyogyoshinsho, Shinran Shonin makes the difficult and implicit teachings of the Sutra easy, open and accessible. In his Wasan he further summarises the essence of the Sutra, and the compassionate heart of the Sutra is presented in the hymn I quoted at the start of this talk - that the great sages bring us - the lowest of people - beings full of karmic evil - to enter the Vow and none are excluded. The last hymn summarises the implicit meaning of the Sutra.

'Let us overturn the three minds of self-power, whether meditative or non-meditative, Which vary with each practitioner; Let us aspire to enter into shinjin That arises from Amida's benefitting of others.'

(The Collected Works of Shinran, p 346)

So, let us all aspire to enter into shinjin, and just say the nembutsu.

Namo Amida Butsu.
Rev Mark Healsmith



Rev Watanabe teaching the Buddhist Scripture Class at Gordon West Public School (GWPS)



Rev Watanabe started to teach his Buddhist scripture class at

Gordon West Public School. 11 April was the final day of Term 1, so we celebrated Shakyamuni Buddha's birth!



Rev Watanabe brought the statue of Baby Buddha and explained what happened some 2500 years ago, and we watched movie of the Buddha's life.

In Gassho,

Successful Clean Up Australia Day!

at Lane Cove National Park
on 4 March 2018 @ Lane Cove National Park



Again this year, on 5 March, HBMA members and friends participated in the 28th Annual "Clean Up Australia Day", at Lane Cove National Park, together with Japanese community groups, such as the

Japan Club of Sydney (JCS) - where Rev Watanabe volunteers as a vice president -, and the Japanese Society of Sydney (JSS).

This event was a great success with about 120 people taking part.

This year there were an estimated 587,962 or more volunteers cleaning up at 7,253 locations right across the country. An estimated 15,947 tonnes of rubbish was removed from our local street, parks, beaches and bushland over the week of Clean Up Australia Day action 27 February to 4 March.



(From page 1)

2018 Hana-Matsuri message



BULLETIN

but came away with a big smile after bathing the baby Buddha!

After Rev Mark delivered his Dharma message - entitled "On the Contemplation Sutra"- (please read the following article), and Rev Sadamitsu had shared his Japanese & English message. To conclude, we sang "Hanamatsuri Koshin kyoku".

After the service, we all enjoyed a variety of food prepared by those who had gathered. Much appreciation from HBMA goes to Mr/Mrs Victor & Gill Davidson, Ms Hiroko Okuyama, Ms Ayako Mitsui-Browne, Mr Max Nilsson-Ladner, Mr & Mrs Michael



Everyone enjoyed delicious Otoki Pot-luck-lunch prepared by all attendants (08/04/18).

Chen and Jennifer Hsu, Mr Norman Fung, Ms Miyoko Horide, Ms Akiko Kato, Ms Yoshimi Tada, then finally to my wife Yukimi for the delicious food for lunch!

I believe that without all of these people's support this year's Hana Matsuri service would not have been so successful. Thank you very much for your support! In Gassho,

Rev Shigenobu Watanabe



The following Dharma talk was given by Rev Mark Healsmith during the Hana Matsuri service on 2 April 2016.

DHARMA TALK for Hana Matsuri

8 April 2018

ON THE CONTEMPLATION SUTRA

I will to start my talk today, as I usually do, with some words from our teacher, Shinran Shonin. This is from the Jodo Wasan and is the seventh of the nine hymns 'On the Contemplation Sutra'.

All of them great sages - By various means, brought the most foolish and lowest of evil people to enter the Vow- That does not neglect people of grave offences and transgressions. (The Collected Works of Shinran - p 346)

When I first read the Contemplation Sutra (full title - The Sutra on Visualization of the Buddha of Infinite Life), I didn't really get the point of the story of Queen Vaidehi. I think I was overwhelmed by Shakyamuni Buddha's exposition of the Pure Land contemplations and probably at that time still harboured attachment to self-power practice. I naively wondered if I could attempt the visualization practices that the Sutra detailed.

I had - of course - the point of the Sutra completely backwards. Fortunately Shinran Shonin compassion-



(top) Ms Yoshimi Tada & Reona, (centre) Mr Norman Fung & Laszlo and (bottom) Ms Akiko Kato & Takemu, are bathing Baby Buddha.



ately taught us how to read the Sutra correctly.

The Contemplation Sutra begins with the story of the confinement of King Bimbisara by his son, Prince Ajatasatru. When he learns that Queen Vaidehi, Bimbisara's consort and Ajatasatru's mother has been secretly providing food and drink to Bimbisara, Ajatasatru - already intending parricide - threatens to kill his mother. He is dissuaded from immediate action by his councillors, but locks Vaidehi up. Some time later 'emaciated with grief and despair' Vaidehi worships Shakyamuni Buddha from afar and the Buddha appears before her with some of his attendants. Vaidehi pleads with the Buddha to show her a world free of the misery she is living through and the Buddha miraculously displays to Vaidehi innumerable Buddha-lands, 'all pure and free of defilement and all of them resplendent'. Vaidehi tells the Buddha that she wishes to be born in the Land of Utmost Bliss of Amitayus.

The Buddha then teaches Vaidehi the practice of visualization of the infinite wonders of the Western Land of Utmost Bliss and of the inexpressible glory of Amitayus Himself and his attendant bodhisattvas, Avalokiteshvara and Mahasthamaprapta.

The glorious exotic detail of this part of the Sutra invites the imagination to its own attempt at visualization. More formal practice is tempting, but is, in the end, only for the rare adept, and not for the *bonbu* tied to secular concerns and passions. It is not for such as us.

The Sutra concludes with the passages setting out the nine grades of those born in the Western Land. These passages are daunting and complicated at first reading. The reader can't help but ask himself where he might fit in but that is the wrong question to ask. We are *bonbu* and surely should know our place. To understand what is really being taught, we need to read this Sutra with the compassionate teaching of Shinran Shonin to hand.

In the *Kyogyoshinsho* Shinran Shonin, in his own words and in his selected quotations, elucidates the explicit and most importantly the implicit and true meanings of the Sutra. The explicit meaning refers to 'presenting the meditative and non meditative good acts and setting forth the three levels of practitioners and the three minds.'

The true import of the Sutra, however, is not the explicit teaching. Shinran Shonin goes on to begin to explain.

'The two forms of good and the three types of meritorious acts, however, are not the true cause of birth in the fulfilled land... Further, the three minds that beings awaken are all minds of self-benefit that are individually different and are not the mind that is single, which arises from Amida's benefitting of others.'

(The Collected Works of Shinran, p 212)

Shinran Shonin goes on to explain that the players in

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BULLETIN

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Successful Hana Matsuri ! on 8 April 2018



Front row (L-R): Rin & Sho Watanabe, Mr Victor Davidson, Rev Mark Healsmith, Rev Watanabe, Rev Daito Sadamitsu, Ms Ayako Mitsui-Browne, Back row : Ms Yoshimi and Reona, Mr Max Ladner, Ms Miyoko Horide, Raszlo and Mr Norman Fung, Ms Hiroko Okuyama, Ms Jennifer Hsu, Mr Michael Chen, Ms Akiko Kato & Takemu. (08/04/18)

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HBMA's front sign welcoming everyone!

came **Ms Shizuko Takeda Felhner**. Thank you for attending this very important service! We are extremely happy to have children present for this joyous occasion. During the Hana Matsuri service, we celebrate the life of each one of us, therefore each and every child played an important part in this ceremony.

After chanting the **Three Refuges, Ti-Sarana**, and a sutra (**Juni-rai**), each of us took turn offering incense and performed **Kanbutsu** (bathing the baby Buddha with sweet tea)! All of the children and also all the grown-ups were impatient to perform this ritual. Each child was very intent and serious



Ms Miyoko Horide, Ms Ayako Mitsui-Browne, Mr Victor Davidson bathing Baby Buddha

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HBMA members, supporters and friends gathered on Sunday, 8 April to celebrate Shakyamuni Buddha's birthday, the Hana Matsuri (Flower festival), also known as Kanbutsu-e!

We shared this happiest occasion as Buddhists with twenty-three people! We were fortunate to welcome **Rev Daito Sadamitsu** from Hiroshima as the Japanese guest speaker and **Mark Healsmith** as the English guest speaker from Canberra, ACT. Rev Sadamitsu happened to be in Sydney for that weekend as he came to see a Tibetan lady and her little new born baby. His group has been supporting this lady since she was in Japan. He kindly accepted my offer to become our Hanamatsuri speaker.

It was so nice to have **Mr Michael Chen** and **Mrs Jennifer Hsu** from **Maha Bodhi Centre**. We also welcomed **Ms Yoshimi Tada** and her son **Reona**, **Ms Akiko Kato** and her son **Takemu**, and **Mr Norman Fung** who again brought his youngest boy **Raszlo**.

It always gives us peace of mind to welcome our regular members, **Mr & Mrs Victor and Gill Davidson**, **Ms Hiroko Okuyama**, **Ms. Ayako Mitsui-Browne**, **Mr Maximilian Nilsson-Ladner**, **Ms Miyoko Horide**, my wife, **Yukimi** and children, **Yushin, Ami, Rin** and **Sho**. Later we also wel-



HBMA shrine were beautifully decollated for the Hana Matsuri service(08/04/18).



Please attend
GOTAN-E &
2018 HBMA AGM

11 am ~ Sunday 20 May 2016

Please be sure to come to the Gotan-e service to celebrate Shinran Shonin's birthday. It will start at 11am, and will be followed by the Annual Gen-

eral Meeting.

Those who plan to attend the service and AGM, **please bring one dish for lunch**. We hope we'll have a meaningful service and a fruitful meeting. **This is a very important meeting for HBMA, so please make sure to come along on this day.**

Shinran Shonin
1173-1263

