

天福宮

Thian Hock Keng

e-newsletter



Birthday of Heavenly Sage Guan - Guan Sheng Di Jun 关 圣帝君圣诞

Thian Hock Keng celebrates the birthday of *Guan Sheng Di Jun* (关圣帝君) on **7 June 2017** (丁酉年农历五月十三). Also known as *Guan Gong*, many businessmen view him as a Wealth General and he symbolizes loyalty within the ranks and courage in adversity. Taoist rituals will commence at 10am on the day itself and at 2pm for the celebration. Thian Hock Keng welcomes devotees to register for the rituals to pray for prosperity and wealth.



Bodhisattva Sangharama (伽蓝菩萨)



In Buddhism, *Guan Gong* is known as Sangharama Bodhisattva, *Qie Lan Pu Sa* (伽蓝菩萨).

The Sanskrit word "sangharama" means temple and thus "Bodhisattva Sangharama" refers to a "Bodhisattva that protects the temple".

According to a Chinese Buddhist book "*Fo Zu Tong Ji*" (佛祖统纪), the spirits of *Guan Gong* and his son *Guan Ping*

(statue on His left) helped Venerable *Zhi Zhe* (智者) of 538-597A.D. built a temple (known as *Yuquan Temple* 玉泉寺 today). After the temple was built in 7 days, *Guan Gong* sought to receive disciplinary ordination from Venerable *Zhi Zhe* after listening to the master's preaching of the Supramudane Dharma. Venerable *Zhi Zhe* then held an ordination ceremony for *Guan Yu*. Thereafter, *Guan Yu* became a Buddhist protection deity protecting Buddhist temples.

Do You Know?

Do you know the significance of praying to the 5 horses of different colours during the birthdays of deities?

The 5 horses represent the heavenly generals and soldiers under the command of the deity. The ritual is to thank the general and soldiers for their work (犒赏将军).



The 5 different colours represent 5 directions and 5 elements. They are placed from left to right: Green for East (东) and Wood (木); Red for South (南) and Fire (火); Yellow for Central (中) and Earth (土); White for West (西) and Metal (金); and Black for North (北) and Water (水).

Thian Hock Keng

158 Telok Ayer Street Singapore 068613

(65) 6423 4616

www.thianhockkeng.com.sg

SHARE

FORWARD



lite