

## Pu Du Gong (普渡公) - The Deity Who Watches Over Wandering Souls

**Pu Du Gong** also known as *Da Shi Ye* (大士爷) is believed to be the deity who monitors wandering souls during the Ghost Festival (7th Lunar Month or Hungry Ghost Festival). He used to be the leader of malicious spirits who wreaked havoc to mankind, but was subsequently subdued by the Goddess of Mercy. Images of *Pu Du Gong* usually show Him with a Goddess of Mercy above His crown.



## 7th Lunar Month - Yu Lan Jie (盂兰节)



In Buddhism, the 7th Lunar Month (Ghost Festival) is known as *Yu Lan Pen* (盂兰盆) which means "absolving one (the souls) from the sufferings".

Thian Hock Keng marks the festival **Yu Lan Jie** with Buddhist prayer rituals *Ci Bei San Mei Shui Chan* (慈悲三昧水忏法会) on 2 Sep 2017 from 9am to 4pm. Thian Hock Keng welcomes devotees to register their ancestors for the prayer rituals.

## Visit by Meizhou Mazu ( 湄洲妈祖 ) to S'pore 5 to 7 July 湄洲妈祖圣驾莅新巡安



Singapore, Thian Hock Keng and tens of thousands of devotees welcomed *Meizhou Mazu* (湄洲妈祖) on 5 Jul 2017 when She arrived in Singapore during Her maiden visit to Southeast Asia. Thian Hock Keng held a Ceremony in Honour of *Mazu* on 6 Jul with traditional courtyard dance performances and ceremonial rites.

*Meizhou Mazu* departed Singapore for Her hometown in the morning of 7 Jul, accompanied by Her devotees, ending a 3-day *Mazu* Cultural exchange programme in Singapore.



To view more photos, please visit [www.thianhockkeng.com.sg](http://www.thianhockkeng.com.sg) or FB: [thianhockkengsg](https://www.facebook.com/thianhockkengsg)

### Do You Know?

When *Meizhou Mazu* departed Kuala Lumpur, Malacca and Singapore, rainbows were spotted.

Do you also know that **animal zodiac signs**

(rabbit, rat, pig and dragon) were spotted in the sky above Thian Hock Keng on the day *Meizhou Mazu* departed from the temple in *Meizhou* for Her trip to



Southeast Asia? Devotees believe these are auspicious sightings and are blessings for the land She has travelled to.

(photo courtesy of a devotee)

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