

7th Lunar Month - Yu Lan Jie (盂兰节)

During the 7th Lunar Month (Hungry Ghost Festival), Thian Hock Keng marks *Yu Lan Jie* on 2 Sep 2017 (丁酉年农历七月十二) with a Buddhist prayer ritual *Ci Bei San Mei Shui Chan* (慈悲三昧水忏法会) from 9am to 4pm. In Buddhism, *Yu Lan Jie* is also known as *Yu Lan Pen* (盂兰盆) which means “absolving one (the souls) from the sufferings”.



Thian Hock Keng welcomes devotees to participate in the Buddhist prayer rituals to pray for one's ancestors and loved ones who have passed on.

Ksitigarbha Bodhisattva (地藏王菩萨)



Ksitigarbha Bodhisattva (地藏王菩萨) is known for his great vow to save all beings from the hell realm before becoming a Buddha himself (地狱不空、誓不成佛；众生度尽、方证菩提).

There are many stories with regard to Ksitigarbha Bodhisattva and how he attains enlightenment. He is often associated with the value of filial piety. Ksitigarbha was said to have made a vow to relieve beings of their sufferings after witnessing the sufferings in Hell. He is often depicted as a monk holding a ringed staff and a wish-fulfilling jewel.

Types of Joss Papers



Did you know that there are different types of joss papers used as offerings? The gold foil joss papers may be offered to Deities and or

ancestors, while those with silver foil are only offered to ancestors or loved ones who have passed on.

The most traditional material used for joss papers are those made of coarse bamboo paper. 'Hell Bank Notes', which resemble our currency used in modern day, are also commonly offered to one's ancestors to serve as currencies for the afterlife.

Thian Hock Keng

158 Telok Ayer Street Singapore 068613

(65) 6423 4616

www.thianhockkeng.com.sg

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