



AMARAVATI BUDDHIST MONASTERY

Great Gaddesden Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire HP1 3BZ
England
www.amaravati.org

KATHINA 2018

Dear Dhamma friends,

The Kathina festival at Amaravati will be held this year on Sunday, 18th November and we warmly invite you to join us in celebrating this event.

It will again be a Royal Kathina, with the Royal Kathina Robe being graciously offered by His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun of Thailand, through a representative.

Chao Khun Bhavanaviteht, known to many as Luang Por Khemadhammo, Abbot of the Forest Hermitage, Warwickshire, has been extended an invitation again this year and he will be the Presiding Elder for the ceremonies.

This year's event is kindly sponsored by Mr. Boonsong & Mrs. Pornpan Sriwitanont, Mrs. Yuphin Deejariya, family and friends. Kathina is a tradition that has been followed for over 2500 years. It takes place during the month following the end of the Vassa (the three months' Rains Retreat). At the time of Kathina, lay followers make a special offering of a Kathina cloth and, in addition, other requisites to the Sangha.

Outline of the Day

- 09:45 Paritta Chanting in the Temple
- 10:30 Pindapata – offering of almsfood to the Sangha
- 13:00 Kathina Ceremony
(taking the Precepts, Paritta Chanting, offering of Royal Kathina Robe and Cloth)
- 15.00 After a break, during which the sangha will offer calendars for 2019, Dhamma Desanas will be offered by our distinguished monastic visitors

Arrival, Dana/Offering Drop-off & Parking

St. Margaret's Lane is likely to be congested, so we encourage you to come early (i.e. before 09:15) for an easy and untroubled arrival, and to participate in the Paritta Chanting, beginning at 09:45.

At the monastery gate there will be a reception tent with volunteers to welcome you to our celebration. As you enter the main gate and drive towards the new car parking area, you will find the drop-off area (on the right) for food and other offerings that you have brought. **Please note that there are no facilities to cook or warm up the food or to wash the food containers that you bring.** If you wish to find them easily afterwards, please clearly mark them with the labels provided or label your containers prior to arriving at Amaravati. And please take them home for washing. After dropping off your offerings, you will then be directed to the main field for parking.

Please note that all vehicles are to be parked in the main field. Special arrangements are being made for visitors with an official Disabled Parking badge. Please inform the volunteers at the at the main gate if you need special access.

Having Arrived

All visitors will be ushered from their cars down the walkway between Ajahn Amaro's kuti and the Retreat Centre to the main ceremonial area.

In addition to the Sala, the Retreat Centre's two lounges are available as additional dining areas for the meal.

A map of the site will be available at the information tent and on the Amaravati web-site (for download)

Donating, Offering, & Volunteering

If you would like to make a donation by cheque, please make it payable to: "The English Sangha Trust Ltd" and send it to:

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Herts,
HP1 3BZ

If you are a UK taxpayer, you might also consider adding 25% to the value of your donation by completing a Gift Aid form. Enclosed in this package is a Gift Aid form for your convenience.

If you would like to consider making a regular donation, a Standing Order form is also enclosed to enable you to set this up. Please send to the address above, too.

For making donations online, using a credit/debit card or PayPal, please go to <http://www.amaravati.org/support/donations/>

Leaflets from the EST, including the EST Financial report, will be available at Kathina and on the Amaravati website. Donations this year will go towards the next stages of the Amaravati Long-Term Plan, including a kuti for the Senior Nun (Amara Kutti), a communal meeting and service building for the nuns (Nissoko) and the refurbishment of the stupa & walkway; in addition, contributions will be used for the general running costs of Amaravati, which include heating, lighting and maintenance etc. all of which are necessary to ensure Amaravati is a safe and uplifting place to visit.

If you would like to ask about the offering of any particularly useful items, please see the Kathina List enclosed.

For information about volunteering to help with the many things that will be needed to be done before the day and on the day itself, please contact Sumith Mestrige on 07392 519446 or email him at sumithmestrige21@gmail.com.

We hope you are able to join us for Kathina and that it will be a joyful day for us all.

With Metta, in the Dhamma,

Boonsong & Pornphan Sriwitanont, Yuphin Deejariya, family and friends
Sponsors of the Royal Kathina celebration, Amaravati Buddhist Monastery, 2018