

NEWSLETTER 電子報

Words of Wisdom from Grand Master Wei Chueh

Having good thoughts is heaven. When the mind is lucid and pure, this is the Pure Land.



惟覺安公老和尚法語

起善念就是天堂，心中光明清淨就是淨土。

Meditation Classes Reunion & Dharma Support Association (DSA) Inaugural Ceremony



護法會頒證暨禪修班聯誼

The Annual Reunion, held on October 29th, was a joyful gathering of DSA volunteers and meditation class members with their families and friends. The event opened with the Abbess presenting Certificates of Appointment to Association Members to recognize volunteers for their work at Buddha Mind and to encourage their future support of the Dharma and Sangha. All participants were invited to make lamp offerings to the Buddha, while making vows for the enlightenment of themselves and all sentient beings.

The Abbess also introduced the achievements of Chung Tai Chan Monastery (CTCM) in spreading Buddha Dharma through establishing meditation centers, schools, and museums. Founded by our Grand Master, Venerable Wei Chueh, CTCM and its over one hundred meditation centers, including Buddha Mind Monastery, offer free meditation classes and events to the public. All members of the Dharma Support Association throughout the world join together, offering their energy, time, and money to support the branch monasteries and to share the compassion and wisdom of Buddhism with all sentient beings. This is the core of Bodhisattva practice of benefiting the self and others.

A delicious vegetarian dinner followed, with everyone enjoying a time of fellowship. The gathering ended in a cool and pleasant autumn night.

護法會頒證及禪修班聯誼會於十月二十九日舉行，禪修班學員及義工們偕同親友歡聚一堂。住持法師頒發護法會證書，表彰義工護法護教的貢獻，義工代表也發表感言，鼓勵大眾加入護持三寶的行列。大眾於佛前供燈，齊心發願以學佛來幫助自己和他人覺悟自性。

隨後，住持法師介紹中台禪寺透過精舍教育及成立學校和博物館，將佛法推廣到世界的各項成果。惟覺老和尚創立中台禪寺及包含佛心寺在內的全球一百座分院，免費開辦禪修課程及各式活動。護法會團結一心，出錢出力護持道場，將佛法的慈悲和智慧與眾生分享，具體落實了自利利他的菩薩行。

大眾歡喜享用美味素齋並相互交流、勉勵，聯誼餐會在涼爽宜人的秋日夜晚圓滿結束。



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Compassionate Samadhi Water Repentance Ceremony

慈悲三昧水懺法會

The ceremony began at 10 a.m. on November 29 with solemn and beautiful chanting of Scroll 1. By offering incense and light to the Buddhas respectfully, participants sincerely repented before the Three Jewels and vowed to correct all wrongdoings. A Blessing Ceremony followed during which we offered prayers for our relatives. Scrolls 2 and 3 opened the afternoon session, after which the Meng Shan food offering ceremony and the memorial service were held to benefit all deceased beings.

During the ceremony, the Abbess gave a talk about the meanings and merits of repentance, and encouraged us to repent wholeheartedly based on the deep belief in the concept of cause and effect.

Everyone makes mistakes whose retribution causes obstacles in our health, family, studies, career and cultivation. Therefore, we should always reflect inward; repent of past wrongdoings; purify our actions, speech, and thoughts; and abide our mind in a state of compassion, respect, and wisdom. By doing so we can remove karmic obstacles, develop inner wisdom, and bring ourselves great blessings.

佛心寺於十一月二十日舉辦「慈悲三昧水懺法會」，大眾以香、燈恭敬供養諸佛菩薩，並在三寶前至誠懺悔，發願改過。法會在莊嚴肅穆的梵唄中展開，上午除禮懺外並有消災儀式，為陽上親眷祈福。下午大眾繼續禮懺，並舉行小蒙山施食超薦法會，利益一切亡者。期間，住持法師開示懺悔的意義及功德，令與會大眾深信因果，至誠懺罪滅愆。

每個人都會犯錯，有了過失就會在學業、事業、家庭、道業及健康上產生障礙，所以應當時時向內返照，懺悔過失，並清淨身口意三業，將心念安住在慈悲、恭敬、智慧的境界中，如此就能化除業障，增長福德和智慧。



● Buddhist Column

The “Compassionate Water Repentance” liturgy was written in the 9th century by a Chinese monk Venerable Wu Da. In his later years, he suffered from a very serious health condition due to retribution from wrongdoing in a previous life. An enlightened Buddhist sage helped him restore his health by dissolving the enmity between him and his past enemy. Venerable Wu Da recorded his experience and compiled this Water Repentance liturgy to remind future generations of the law of causality, teaching people to eliminate karmic obstructions through sincere repentance.

● 佛法小常識

「慈悲三昧水懺」源自於九世紀時的中國悟達法師。法師晚年由於過去冤業現前，身體生瘡，痛苦不堪；幸而得到已開悟的聖者協助，得以與過去冤家解冤釋結，並恢復健康。悟達法師為以親身經歷撰寫懺悔儀文，令後世眾生明瞭因果的道理，誠心懺悔，滌除業障。



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Three Refuges Transmission Ceremony in Houston

普德精舍三皈依法會

The Three Refugees means to rely on the guidance of the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha, which are the Three Jewels. The Buddha is the enlightened one, the Dharma is the Truth that the Buddha realized and shared after his enlightenment, and the Sangha refers to the monastic community who propagate the Buddha Dharma. Taking the Three Refugees symbolizes the self-commitment of following the teachings of the Three Jewels.

All of us have the potential to be awakened, the innate wisdom to differentiate right and wrong, and the intrinsic pure nature; these are our inherent three jewels. The ultimate goal of taking the Three Refugees is to inspire our innate Three Jewels and become awakened to our pure nature.

Thirteen members of the Buddha Mind Monastery participated in the transmission of the Three Refugees in the Chung Tai Zen Center of Houston on November 20, 2016. The dignified and solemn ceremony was presided over by Ven. Master Jian Tan, the abbot of the Houston center, on behalf of the Abbot of Chung Tai Chan Monastery. All the members delightedly vowed to be a formal Buddhist. They also visited another branch of Chung Tai, Texas Pagoda Chan Monastery, and enjoyed its beauty. All the members returned from this fruitful journey with Dharma joy and moved on to a new milestone in their spiritual practice.

三皈依就是皈向、依靠佛、法、僧三寶。「佛」是覺悟自性的人，「法」是佛所覺悟的真理，「僧」是弘揚佛法的出家人。三皈依象徵佛弟子發願依循三寶的指引來成就個人的道業。人人心中都有覺悟的潛能、明辨是非善惡的智慧，以及清淨的本性，這就是自性三寶。藉由皈依外在三寶來啟發自性三寶，最終覺悟清淨自性、圓成佛道，就是皈依的真正目的。

佛心寺十三位學員，在十一月二十日參加中台禪寺德州分院普德精舍的三皈依法會，由普德精舍住持見曇法師代表中台禪寺住持見燈大和尚正授三皈。在隆重莊嚴的儀式中，學員們歡喜發願成為正式的佛弟子，在修行上建立新的里程碑。學員也參訪了另一所景色優美的分院德州寶塔禪寺，人人滿載而歸。

Reflection:

Having taken this step, I honestly feel that I have started a new life with a new family of my Dharma brothers and sisters who all have the same beliefs as I do. I know I have found my place in this life. -- Kimberly Henry (Fa Yuan)

踏出這一步之後，我真正感受到與擁有相同信念的師兄弟，共同展開了新的人生。我知道我已找到了心靈歸屬之處。-- 法淵

Formally declaring the intention to strengthen my practice through the Refuges was a perfect way to keep as focused on the Path as I can. Since the trip I have been able to devote more time to my practice. -- Amanda Black (Fa Da)

在三皈依時正式發願增進自己的修行，讓我能夠竭盡所能，專注在個人道業上。今後我將投注更多時間來修行。-- 法達

The significance of the ceremony was as a formal recognition of the ideals we have been pursuing since day 1 in the level one class. As we all seek to attain that moment of clarity in our own consciousness this was but a stone along that path. -- Kurt Weisel (Fa Yan)

三皈依的意義，是對我們從開始上初級禪修班至今，一直在追尋的道理有了正式的認可。我們都在尋求覺性中清楚明白的一刻，而皈依就是這段旅程當中的里程碑。-- 法眼

It has been a great relief to finally let go and make a commitment to follow the Buddhist path. The Dharma names we were given serves as a reminder of this commitment. -- Lesa Ferguson (Fa Min)

我終於放下(牽掛)，自我承諾要修行學佛，這是很大的解脫。我們得到的法名，也在提醒自己要信守承諾。-- 法敏



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January~April 2017 Schedule

2017年一月至四月課程及法會活動

Meditation & Buddhism Level I

Tuesday Morning 10 AM~ 12 PM;
Evening, 7~9PM

Chinese Meditation Class Level I

中文初級禪修班

每週六 1:30 ~ 3:30 PM

Kids' Meditation Class 兒童禪修班

Saturday 10:30 AM ~ 12 PM

1/14, 2/4, 2/18, 3/11, 3/25, 4/8, 4/22

Vegetarian Cooking Class 素食烹飪班

Sunday 1:30 ~ 2:30 PM

1/21, 2/25, 3/25

1/1 Sunday 10 AM ~ 12:45 PM

Diamond Sutra Ceremony & New Year Celebration

新年金剛經祈福法會

1/29 Sunday 10 AM ~ 2 PM

Great compassion Guan Ying Ceremony
& Chinese New Year Celebration

新春觀音祈福法會

3/5 Sunday 10 AM ~ 12:30 PM

Prajna Wisdom Blessing Ceremony

般若祈福法會

4/2 Sunday 10 AM ~ 4:30 PM

Qing Ming Ksitigarbha Memorial &
Blessing Ceremony

清明報恩祈福法會

4/30 Sunday 10 AM~12:50 PM

Buddha Bathing & Medicine Buddha Ceremony

佛誕浴佛暨藥師祈福法會

Zen Story of Grand Master Wei Chueh

中台公案

The Cypress Tree

Once, in a discussion session on the Surangama Sutra at the Chung Tai Buddhist Institute, a monk brought up a famous Chinese koan.

A disciple asked Chan Master Zhaozhou, "What is the essence of the Dharma?" The Chan Master replied, "The cypress tree in front of the courtyard."

The monk asked Ven. Wei Chueh, "But Shifu, I don't understand, why is the essence of the Dharma the cypress tree in front of the courtyard?" All the monks and nuns held their breaths in anticipation.

The Master responded affirmatively, "It indeed is the cypress tree in front of the courtyard."

不要多心

一次佛學院的「楞嚴研討」課上，有位法師提出了一則著名的禪門公案：

有人問趙州禪師：「如何是佛法大意？」趙州禪師回答：「庭前柏樹子。」

這位法師問惟覺老和尚：「可是師父，弟子不懂，為什麼佛法大意是庭前柏樹子？」

大家屏息以待……

老和尚說：「就是庭前柏樹子。」和尚肯定的回答。

