



# Maa Durga Temple, Auckland, NZ

## Monthly Newsletter

June 2016 – Events and Festival dates (Please confirm exact date and time with Panditji)

June 2016

01	Wednesday	<u>Apara Ekadashi</u>
02	Thursday	<u>Vaishnava Aparā Ekadashi</u>
03	Friday	<u>Pradosh Vrat, Masik Shivaratri</u>
04	Saturday	<u>Masik Karthigai</u>
05	Sunday	<u>Jyeshtha Amavasya, Darsha-Bhavuka Amavasya, Shani Jayanti, Vat Savitri Vrat, Rohini Vrat</u>
06	Monday	<u>Chandra Darshan</u>
07	Tuesday	<u>Maharana Pratap Jayanti</u>
08	Wednesday	<u>Vinayaka Chaturthi</u>
10	Friday	<u>Skanda Sashti</u>
12	Sunday	<u>Masik Durgashtami, Dhumavati Jayanti</u>
14	Tuesday	<u>Mahesh Navami, Ganga Dussehra</u>
15	Wednesday	<u>Mithuna Sankranti</u>
16	Thursday	<u>Gayatri Jayanti, Nirjala Ekadashi</u>
17	Friday	<u>Ramalakhmana Dwadashi</u>
18	Saturday	<u>Pradosh Vrat, Shani Trayodashi</u>
20	Monday	<u>Jyeshtha Purnima, Vat Purnima Vrat, Purnima Upavas, Kabirdas Jayanti</u>
21	Tuesday	<u>Ashadha Begins *North, Shortest Day of Year</u>
24	Friday	<u>Sankashti Chaturthi</u>
27	Monday	<u>Kalashdami</u>
30	Thursday	<u>Yogini Ekadashi</u>

## WEEKLY PROGRAMS AT THE TEMPLE(4/3 Onslow Avenue, Papatoetoe, Auckland)

Tuesday:

RAM KATHA, HANUMAN CHALISA, AARTI AND MAHA PRASAD.

Friday:

Sahastra Naam Pooja, PRAVACHAN, HANUMAN CHALISA AND DURGA CHALISA

Saturday: MATA RANI CHOWKI or BHAJAN SANDHYA FOLLOWED BY AARTI AND MAHA PRASAD

## Temple Timings:

9am to 12.00 am and

5pm to 8.00pm

Panditji: Tel. 09 2798108

FREE HINDI CLASS EVERY SUNDAY FROM 10.30AM & MUSIC CLASSES ON MONDAYS FROM 5PM AT TEMPLE CONTACT TEL. 09 2798108

## May Highlights at the Temple

To provide better facilities to our devotees the adjacent warehouse space has been leased from the landlord. The Kalash pooja was done and now modifications and renovation work is being done. Devotees interested in helping out either through funds or materials or seva can contact the Temple Trustee. Please visit our temple or check out the photos and videos posted on our facebook page.

### Maa Bhagwati Jagran: 25/06/2016

*All devotees with family and friends are invited to attend the Jagrata and obtain Maa Bhagwati's Blessings. For program details see our website.*

### June Festival Details:

#### **Shani Jayanti 2016 – June 05:**

**Shani Jayanti** is marked as birth anniversary of **Lord Shani**. Shani Jayanti is also known as **Shani Amavasya**. Lord Shani is son of **Lord Suryadev** and rules planet Saturn and weekday Saturday. Shani Jayanti is observed on Amavasya Tithi during Jyeshtha month according to North Indian Purnimant calendar. According to South Indian Amavasyant calendar Shani Jayanti falls on Amavasya Tithi during Vaishakha month. It is name of Lunar month which differs and in both type of calendars Shani Jayanti falls on the same day. Shani Jayanti coincides with **Vat Savitri Vrat** which is observed during Jyeshtha Amavasya in most North Indian states. On Shani Jayanti devotees keep fast or **Upvaas** to propitiate Lord Shani and visit Shani temples to seek blessing of Lord Shani. It is believed that Lord Shani believes in fair justice and if appeased blesses His devotee with good luck and fortune. People, who don't have blessing of Lord Shani, toil for years without getting any reward for their hard work in life. Shani Jayanti is very appropriate day to perform **Hawan, Homam** and **Yagya** to appease Lord Shani. **Shani Tailabhishekam** and **Shani Shanti**

**Puja** are the most important ceremonies performed during Shani Jayanti. Above ceremonies are performed to lessen the effect of **Shani Dosh**.

#### **Ganga Dussehra 2016 – June 14**

Ganga Dussehra falls during Dashami Tithi of Jyeshtha Shukla Paksha. Ganga Dussehra is also known as **Gangavataran** which means 'the descent of the Ganga'. Usually Ganga Dussehra is celebrated one day before Nirjala Ekadashi but in some years Ganga Dussehra and **Nirjala Ekadashi** might fall on the same day. Ganga Dussehra is dedicated to Goddess Ganga and this day is commemorated as the day when Ganga was descended to the Earth to accomplish her mission to purge the cursed souls of Bhagiratha's ancestors. Before coming to the Earth, the Goddess Ganga was residing in **Kamandal of Lord Brahma** and along with her the Goddess Ganga brought the purity of heaven to the Earth. On Ganga Dussehra devotees worship Goddess Ganga and take bath in Ganges. Taking bath in Ganges and offering charity or Dan-Punya on Ganga Dussehra day is considered highly auspicious. It is believed that holy dip in Ganges on Ganga Dussehra day can purge all type of sins. Devotees flock to Allahabad/Prayag, Garhmukteshwar, Haridwar, Rishikesh and Varanasi to take a holy dip. Ganga Dussehra celebrations are legendary in Varanasi. On Ganga Dussehra day thousands of devotees do Ganga Snan and participate in Ganga Aarti at **Dasaswamedh Ghat**.

#### **Nirjala Ekadashi 2016 – June 16**

This is the most important and significant Ekadashis out of all twenty four Ekadashis in a year. Nirjala means without water and Nirjala Ekadashi fasting is observed without water and any type of food. Nirjala Ekadashi Vratam is the toughest among all Ekadashi fasting due to strict fasting rules. Devotees abstain not only from food but also from water while observing Nirjala

Ekadashi Vrat. Devotees who are unable to observe all twenty four Ekadashi fasting in a year should observe single Nirjala Ekadashi fasting as fasting on Nirjala Ekadashi brings all benefits of twenty four Ekadashi fasting in a year. Nirjala Ekadashi is also known as **Pandava Ekadashi** and Bhimseni or **Bhima Ekadashi** due to one legend associated with Nirjala Ekadashi. Bhimsen, the second Pandava brother and voracious eater, was not able to control his desire of having food and was not able to observe Ekadashi fasting. Except Bhima, all Pandava brothers and Draupadi used to observe all Ekadashi fasting. Bhima, being upset due to his weak determination and doing a dishonor to **Lord Vishnu**, met **Maharishi Vyasa** to find some solution. Sage Vyasa advised Bhima to observe single Nirjala Ekadashi fasting to compensate for not observing all Ekadashi fasting in a year. Due to this legend Nirjala Ekadashi is also known as **Bhimseni Ekadashi** or Pandava Ekadashi.

**Winter Solstice - 2016: June 21**

The **Solstice** is an astronomical event that happens twice, once in summer and once in winter, each year when the Sun reaches its highest position in the sky as seen from the North or South Pole. During Solstices the tilt of the axis of the Earth (with respect to the Sun) is the maximum at 23° 26'. Solstices occur on 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> June and 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> December each year. During summer it is the longest day of the year and during winter it is the shortest day of the year. During June it is **Summer Solstice** in the Northern hemisphere and **Winter Solstice** in the Southern hemisphere. In New Zealand it is the shortest day of the year.

**Did you know this?**

**The Taj Mahal – India and The Bangladesh Taj:**

While everyone knows about the Taj Mahal in India, what is little known is the fact that a scaled copy of the Taj has been built in 2008 in Bangladesh. The Taj Mahal Bangladesh was built

by a film-maker, who wanted the poor of his country to be able to see the beauty of the Taj.

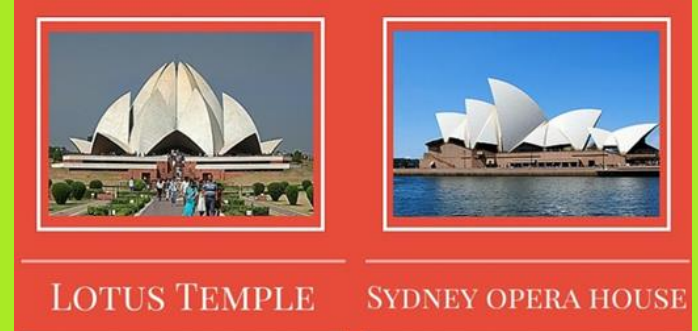


TAJ MAHAL

BANGLADESH TAJ

**Lotus Temple – Delhi and Sydney Opera House:**

The flower like Lotus Temple is a Baha’i House of Worship, located in Delhi. It is very similar in appearance to the Opera House in Sydney.



LOTUS TEMPLE

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

**Comments / suggestions: Email to**  
**maashakti2011@gmail.com:or** **at**  
**www.http://maaDurgatemple.co.nz/**

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