

SEPTEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

Maa Durga Temple

4/3 Onslow Avenue, Manukau, Auckland.

<http://maadurgatemple.co.nz/> Tel : 09 2798108

Dear Devotees,

Jai Mata Di. We welcome you to our Tenth Newsletter. We cover and keep all of you informed of all the exciting events and activities taking place in our temple. Our vision is to create the finest temple in Auckland for Maa Durga Devotees. Join us and support us in any way you can.

IMPORTANT SERVICES FOR ALL DEVOTEES

Maa Durga Temple provides the following services for the devotees and the members of the community:

Personal Hindu Dharmic Vidhi (Individual sponsored ritual pooja, katha and ceremonies). Use of Mandir and its facilities.

For sponsoring of Mahaprasad / donations for Mandir festivals please make advance booking with Panditji on Ph. 09 2798108

Any enquiry regarding Mandir's pooja or other services contact panditji.

DUSSEHRA FESTIVAL-26TH OCTOBER 2015 CELEBRATE WITH US!!

THIS YEAR WE ARE HOLDING A SARVAJANIK GANESH UTSAV AT THE TEMPLE. FROM 17TH TILL 26TH SEPTEMBER THERE WILL BE GANPATHI POOJA, AARTI AND MAHAPRASAD. GANESH VISARJAN ON 27TH SEPTEMBER.

Dussehra Festival on 26th October 2015 at the Malaeola Community Centre, Mangere. Ramleela play by the kids, cultural programmes and Ravan Dahan – all of 25 ft and 10 heads and a sparkling display of Fireworks! For Donations / sponsorship / stall booking visit our website or facebook page.



- Have you tuned in to Amrit Varsha?



UPCOMING EVENTS !!

SEPTEMBER 5

RAAS LEELA and KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI UTSAV !!

All Saturdays - Mata ki Chowki or Bhajan Sandhya followed by Aarti and Mahaprasad.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Temple Timings:

8.30am to 12 Noon and

4pm to 8.30pm

Panditji: Tel. 09 2798108

Programme Highlights:

Every Saturday 6:00 PM Bhajan Sandhya or Chowki with Hanuman Chalisa Recitation, Aarti and Mahaprasad

WHAT IS IN SEPTEMBER?

5th September –Krishna Janmashtami

17th September–Ganesh Chaturthi

FREE MUSIC CLASSES! EVERY SATURDAY FROM 4.30PM AT TEMPLE CONTACT 09 2798108

ABOUT JANMASHTAMI ...

In his preaching to Arjuna in the Holy Bhagvad Gita Lord Krishna says 'Whenever the balance of the universe is disturbed by external interference from any of its parts, then I reveal myself as the Power of eternal balancing. For the protection of those who are in harmony, and the rectification of everything disharmonious, I incarnate myself at every juncture of time. The celebration of Janmashtami is also a way to commemorate his holy deeds on earth for the mankind.

The birth of Lord Krishna goes back to the Dwapar Yuga. It is in the year of Visvavasu around 3227 BC when Lord Krishna was born. He was born on a dark, stormy night on the eighth day in the second fortnight of the month of Shravan which now corresponds to the month of August-September in the Gregorian calendar. Born in the prison of Demon Kansa, from Kansa's sister Devaki and Vasudeva, Krishna was declared to be the savior of mankind and the end of Kansa even before his birth. According to the legends, Kansa was a mighty and cruel prince of Mathura. His father Ugrasen had chosen Vasudev, one of the highly ranked officials in his army, as the groom for his daughter - Devki (Kansa's sister). Agreeing to the decision, Kansa arranged a lavish wedding for his only sister. When Kansa was riding on a chariot along with the newlywed couple - Devki and Vasudev - a heavenly voice interrupted the journey. It predicted that Devki's eighth son would kill Kansa. Upon hearing the prophesy, the self-centered Kansa imprisoned the newlywed couple.



Apart from imprisoning Devki and Vasudev, Kansa also put his own father (the King of Mathura) behind bars. Consequently, Kansa took over as the King of Mathura. He waited until the arrival of the Devki's first child. The moment Kansa heard the news of the birth of Devki's first child; he headed towards the prison ferociously, got hold of the newborn and killed the child. The following six newborns of Devki were killed by Kansa in similar manner. When she was about to give birth to her eighth child, a heavenly voice commanded Vasudev to take the newborn to Gokul and exchange it with the newborn girl child of Nanda and Yashoda.

The guards of the prison had fallen into deep slumber. They were unable to inform their master about the birth of Devki's eighth child. The shackles and the prison gate opened miraculously and Vasudev stepped out of the prison with the newborn, in a small basket. In the midnight, Vasudev carried the newborn in the basket and traveled through the waters of stormy Yamuna River. Since it was raining heavily, a huge snake known as Adishesha with its 2000 hoods, glided behind the father and the newborn, in order to act as a protective canopy for the divine child. When Vasudev returned from Gokul, the shackles fastened automatically, the doors of the prison closed and the guards woke up.

Upon hearing the news of the birth of Devki's eighth child, Kansa went to the cell and got hold of the newborn. Ironically, the child slipped out of his stranglehold and appeared as Goddess, laughing at him. She vanished after telling that the eighth son of Devki (Lord Krishna) had already been born and was safe elsewhere. Lord Krishna grew up at Gokul as a mischievous child who was the heartbeat of Gokul and the favorite of Gopikas. He grew up as a lovable boy, who played around mischievously and looted fresh Makhan (homemade butter) from every household of Gokul. Year after year, people in Mathura, Gokul and elsewhere in India celebrate the birth of the favorite deity - Lord Krishna on the eighth day (asthami) of Shravan month and name it as Janmashtami or Krishnashtami

Krishna, right from the day of birth exhibited that he was a special child and there was extraordinary powers with him. Throughout his childhood and adolescence in Gokul, he did

many things which made people believe that he was a form of God. Since then, the people of Nandgaon celebrated the birth of Krishna as a day of fortune.

Even thousands of years after his heavenly abode, people observe this day as a day of fortune and commemorate the birth of Lord Krishna by fasting and feasting. People believe Krishna to be the ultimate savior of the world. One who unlike other gods, can be regarded, as a lover, friend, divine guru or one's own child. People mesmerized with Krishna's persona and deeds can be seen singing and dancing in the name of Krishna on the day of Janmashtami. It is the deep faith and devotion of people towards him that the festival is still celebrated with a great honor, joy as well as elation as it was celebrated thousands of years back.

Lord Krishna is one of the favorite deities of Hindus. He is worshipped for his immense power, captivating appearance, unique charm and playfulness. For some, he is the hero, a lover or the guide; while for others, he is a child. He resides in the heart of every devotee and fulfills everyone's wish, if he is worshipped with in-depth devotion. Janmashtami is celebrated as the birthday of Lord Krishna.

**MAIYA YASHODA KA LAL,GOKUL KA GWAL,JINKE JANM SE HUA
GOKUL AUR BRIJ KA NIHAL, RAKHE AAPKO SADA KHUSHAAL.....
HAPPY JANMASHTAMI JAI SHREE KRISHNA..**

GANESH CHATURTHI...

Om Ganeshaya Namah

Ganesh Chaturthi, the festival of one of the most adorable Hindu gods, is here...and it's a time for celebrations, visiting pandals, chanting mantras, eating sweets and feeling united in a wave of religious fervor

Goddess Parvati is supposed to have created Ganesha out of the sandalwood paste she used in her bath and was so proud of her creation that she breathed life into the figure. She then set him to stand guard at her door as she bathed. The boy even stopped Parvati's husband Shiva from entering as he did not know he was her husband. An enraged Shiva sent his gana army to teach the child some manners. However, they were no match for Ganesha. Then Shiva himself came and beheaded the boy. Seeing the boy, whom Parvati considered as her son, dead, the goddess took on the form of Kali and vowed to destroy the entire Universe.

It was only when Shiva promised to restore the child back to life that Parvati partially quietened. The head of a baby elephant which had just died was fixed in the place of the boy's head and Ganesh was born.. Even this did not placate Parvati, who sought that this boy now fitted with the head of an elephant, should be regarded by one and all, as the remover of obstacles, and should be offered worship first, before any form of worship was offered to any other manifestation of divinity.

This boon granted, Ganesha, the lord of the attendants of Parvati, came to be regarded as Vigneshwara the remover of obstacles. One always starts any prayer, ritual or occasion by worshiping the Beloved Elephant God. Lord Ganesh blessings are also sought before starting any new venture. Lord Ganesha is also referred to as Ganapati, Gajanana, Vinayaka, Vighneshwar and Pillaiyar. Ganesh Mantras can be found in the Ganesh Puran /Ganapati Upanishad. One of the favorite Prayers of Shri Ganesha is "Vakratunda Mahaakaaya Suryakotee Sama Prabha Nirvighnam kuru mey Deva Sarva kaaryeshu Sarvadaa" Meaning O Lord Ganesha who has a large body, curved trunk and brightness of a million suns, please remove all obstacles in my work always.



The huge size of Ganapati represents the Universe (Cosmos), and his curled trunk, the symbol OM. The elephant's head is said to represent superior intellect while the snake around his waist cosmic energy. His broken tusk is symbolic of knowledge, as it is believed that it is with this tusk that he wrote down the Mahabharata, in the capacity of a scribe, when it was recited by the sage Vyasa. The mouse - mooshikam, his mount is said to symbolize the equal importance of the biggest and smallest of creatures, in the eyes of the infinity of creation Bhraman.

Ganesh's Lessons: Respect your parents Ganesh's relationship with his parents has been tricky. This is primarily because of the way he was created by Parvati and by mistake beheaded by his father Lord Shiva. However his powers and wisdom had developed the relationship with his parents into one of love and respect. An anecdote from Lord Ganesh's life reflects this lesson. When Ganesh was asked to encircle the world three times in order to win a race, he simply encircled his parents saying they were his world

Be Wise: Ganesh is shown as a large pot bellied God. Yet he is known as one of the most powerful Gods in the world and has slain many demons. His story also reveals that we must not fret over our physical weaknesses. It was Skanda's vehicle and strength that made him hop on and encircle the earth literally. Ganesh could not be as fast as Skanda so he used his wisdom to win the race.

Forgiveness is a virtue: There is a tradition that one should not look at the moon on the night of Ganesh Chaturthi as the Moon God was cursed for mocking Ganesh this day. Apparently, Ganesh was invited to a feast. Being very fond of Modak (sweets), he consumed a large number of them. While returning home, his stomach burst open due to the weight of the food. Luckily, it was night time and Ganesh thought no one saw him. He quickly tied up his belly with a snake. But the moon had not only noticed his predicament, he also chose to mock him. A furious Ganesh cursed him that henceforth, he would be invisible. When the moon begged forgiveness, Lord Ganesh realized that the punishment was perhaps too harsh so forgave the moon despite being insulted by it. Ganesh proclaimed that the moon would be invisible on just one day - amavasya. But the legendary tiff makes Ganesh devotees avoid seeing the moon on Ganesh's special day.

Be Modest: Lord Ganesh is considered one of the most powerful gods in Hinduism, unlike the other gods who choose bejeweled chariots; his vehicle is the humble mouse. The mouse signifies darkness and, the Lord's vehicle, signifies the journey from darkness to light or enlightenment. Another interpretation is that Ganesh wins hearts through simple methods, and this too holds a lesson. A shiny car or extravagant lifestyle might impress, but to win hearts, the simplest way is through one's actions through simple gestures of affection and respect.

One must finish what one starts: Legend has it that, when Valmiki was reciting the Mahabharata to Lord Ganesh, the pen broke in the middle of writing it. Since Lord Ganesh had the onus of writing the epic he broke his tusk and used it as a pen only to finish what he started.

Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated all over India, in different ways, but Maharashtra, especially Mumbai, leads the way in terms of pomp and show. The elephant-headed god is worshipped for 10 days - from Bhadrapada Shudha Chaturthi to Ananta Chaturdashi. Huge Ganeshas are created, bought and installed in society pandals and felicitated for ten whole days. After ten days of heady Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations, there is equal mad fervour for the immersion or visarjan ceremony of their beloved God. The idols are carried by devotees, who sing and dance right till they reach the place of immersion. Huge crowds gather at the immersion places, usually beaches and rivers, where the clay idols are lovingly floated into the waters.

Ganpati Bappa Morya



As Ganesh leaves his devotees and proceeds on his water journey, the crowds clamour: "Ganpati Bappa Morya, Pudchya Varshi Laukar Ya", meaning, "Our dear God, please come

back again next year..."

MADHUSUDAN...DID YOU KNOW?

"Madhusudan" - is the name ascribed to Lord Krishna. He is hailed as "the slayer of Madhu", the demon! Yes, this is the literal meaning of this name... It appears in the Bhagawad Gita. Arjuna addresses Lord Krishna by this name a number of times. Who was this demon Madhu whom Krishna had supposedly slain... What was his story? How did Krishna come to kill him? But Krishna didn't... Lord Krishna didn't kill any demon named Madhu...at least not as the Krishna avatar. During his lifetime as Krishna, he killed many demons, but none named Madhu! So, what was the mystery? Then, who was Madhu? Well, the truth is that Krishna did kill Madhu, but as Vishnu - the Lord of the Universe. Legend says that at the moment of the birth of the material universe, Lord Vishnu went into deep sleep. From a lotus stem that came out of his navel, Lord Brahma was born. From the ears of Lord Vishnu, two demons named Madhu and Kaitabha were also born...

Both the demons did penance and succeeded in pleasing Goddess Lakshmi. She blessed them with a boon that they would only die whenever they wished! This newly gained power made them intoxicated and soon, made them tyrants. They even took away the Vedas from Brahma, who could not defeat them. Lord Brahma then took resort in Lord Vishnu's feet, but he continued to be in deep sleep. Nobody could wake him up. Brahma then turned to Goddess Lakshmi for help, who herself was in a form of Yoga-nidra, or deep sleep.

Due to the interference of Goddess Lakshmi, Lord Vishnu wakes up from his sleep and goes to heed the call of Brahma... Lord Vishnu then took on the form of Hayagriva, with a human-horse body, and defeats Madhu and Kaitabha. He takes back the Vedas from them but is unable to kill them because of the boon they had attained. Lord Hayagriva then asks them of a boon. Their arrogance makes them declare that they will grant whatever he wished for! Lord Hayagriva says, "I want your death!" and thus, both the demons were killed. From here onwards, Lord Vishnu came to be known as "Madhusudan". Lord Krishna is known to be an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Therefore, this reference of 'Madhusudan' in the Bhagavad Gita implies that connection.

October 2015						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Ekadashi	9	10
11	12	13 Navratri Begins	14	15	16	17
18	19 Saraswati Pooja	20	21 Durgashta mi	22 Dussehra	23 Dashami Ekadashi	24
25	26 Sharad Poornima	27	28	29	30 Karva Chauth Sankasta chaturthi	31

WEEKLY PROGRAM CALENDAR

Om asato maa sadgamaya, tamaso maa jyotirgamaya, mrtiyormaa amrtam gamaya.....Om Saantih,Saantih,Saantih*

Tuesday	RAM KATHA, HANUMAN CHALISA, AARTI AND MAHA PRASAD. Every Tuesday Ram Charitra Manas is read and its meaning and significance is explained. 3Dohas and Chopayis are read.
Friday	<u>BHAJAN SANDHYA, PRAVACHAN, HANUMAN CHALISA AND DURGA CHALISA</u> Every Friday Devotees sing Bhajans and Kirtans and our Panditji does a small pravachan on religious studies.
Saturday	<u>MATA RANI CHOWKI or BHAJAN SANDHYA FOLLOWED BY AARTI AND MAHA PRASAD</u>

Comments / suggestions: Email to

maashakti2011@gmail.com : or at [www.http://maaDurgatemple.co.nz/](http://maaDurgatemple.co.nz/)

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