

萬佛聖城因應「居家避疫」規定

City of Ten Thousand Buddha's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemics

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疫情下的大自然
Stan Shoptaugh攝影
2020年3月23日

Nature in the time of a pandemic
Photo by Stan Shoptaugh
March 23, 2020

新型冠狀病毒肺炎席捲全球，加州於2020年3月19日起實施全州「居家避疫」辦法。萬佛聖城所在的曼都西諾縣則提前於3月18日起實施，並於當天宣佈全縣第一個確診病例（在縣內南端沿海地區）。

曼都西諾縣衛生局非常關切萬佛聖城來自十方的善信，衛生局官員早在二月間即已拜會萬佛聖城，希望聖城近月暫停大型活動。因此萬佛聖城取消2020年三月份與四月份所有大型法會。城內的君康素菜館、流通處、功德部櫃臺自3月8日起暫停開放。

萬佛聖城的教育機構：法界佛教大學、培德中學、育良小學，自三

As the Covid-19 Pandemic rampaged through the world, California implemented a state-wide Shelter-at-Home order on March 19, 2020. Mendocino County, in which the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) is located, actually initiated its own Shelter-in-Place orders on March 18, after informing residents of the first confirmed case in the county (which occurred in the southern coastal area).

The Public Health Department of Mendocino County expressed concerns that visitors and disciples arriving from all over the world might carry, spread, or contract the virus. Thus, in February, the County health department officials visited CTTB and asked us to postpone all public gatherings scheduled for the next few months. Accordingly, CTTB cancelled all major Dharma sessions scheduled for March and April. CTTB's Jyun Kang Restaurant, Circulation Department, and Donation Department have also been closed since the eighth of March.

All of CTTB's educational institutions, including the Dharma Realm Buddhist University (DRBU) and Instilling Goodness Elementary and Developing Virtue Secondary School (IGDVS), have transitioned to



2020年4月1日 April 1, 2020

月份第三週起，改為網路教學。城內也因應政府防疫規定，上殿過堂均須佩戴口罩並採六呎寬間距，每排只設兩個拜墊；佛殿、祖師殿、延生堂、往生堂等四座殿堂同開，以分散上殿過堂的城內住眾。

萬佛聖城開山祖師上宣下化老和尚生前曾開示指出，瘟疫流行時，要誠心持誦〈大悲咒〉與〈楞嚴咒〉。宣公上人並分享他老人家早年在東北抗疫的親身經歷如下：

「記得我在東北的時候，有一個村子叫呂家油坊，日本投降後有個瘟疫症，一天就死幾十口人，十天就死幾百口人。有一戶家庭十一口人，在三天內死了十三個人。十一口人怎麼會死了十三個呢？因為他有個親戚，又有個朋友，是來探病的，想不到一到這個地方，也就跟著死了，這是很嚴重的瘟疫症。」



2020年4月23日 April 23, 2020

online classes since the third week of March. In accordance with the government's regulations, all CTTB residents attending daily ceremonies must observe mandated social distancing rules, maintaining a minimum of six-feet of distance with only two bowing cushions per row. All four halls in the Buddha Hall, including the Main Hall, the Patriarch Hall, the Long Life Hall, and the Rebirth Hall—are open so that there is enough room to observe these regulations. Residents are additionally required to wear masks in all public buildings.

In an instructional talk he once gave, CTTB's founding Patriarch, Venerable Master Hsuan Hua, said that in the future when a plague strikes, people should sincerely recite the *Great Compassion Mantra* and *Shurangama Mantra*. Venerable Master Hua also shared his own experience of fighting a plague in his early years in Northeast China (Dongbei). His account was as follows:

“I remember when I was in the Northeast, there was a village called Lu's Oil Mill (Lǚ Jiā Yóu Fǎng); after the Japanese surrendered, an epidemic struck this village. Dozens of people died everyday, and after ten days hundreds were dead. In one household of eleven, there were thirteen deaths in three days. How could there be thirteen deaths in a household of eleven people? A relative and friend had come to visit the infected family, not knowing that when they arrived they would die along with them. This was a really severe epidemic.

At that time, I took four boys who were eleven or twelve years old with me to this village to recite the *Great Compassion Mantra* for the sake of the villagers. After we walked around the village reciting the *Great Compassion Mantra* one hundred and eight times, the epidemic mysteriously disappeared. As a result of this, I knew that reciting the *Great Compassion Mantra* could evoke an inconceivable response.”

The Venerable Master also said, “Guanyin Bodhisattva's accomplishments derives from the Dharma power of the *Great Compassion*



2020年4月23日 April 23, 2020

當時我帶了四個十一、二歲的小童子，在這條村四周圍，誦了一百零八遍〈大悲咒〉。這條村的瘟疫症，也就不知道跑到什麼地方去了，瘟疫就斷了。由這個，我就知道誦〈大悲咒〉的感應是不可思議的。」

上人又說：「觀世音菩薩的成就是得於〈大悲咒〉的法力，而成為千手千眼菩薩。〈大悲咒〉具有通天徹地的神妙法力，只要有真誠心、恆遠心的誦念，就可以逢凶化吉，遇難呈祥，妙不可言，也窮言難盡。」

2020年3月8日至14日（原觀音七期間）萬佛聖城如來寺在道源堂舉行「大悲護世息災法會」，每日持誦〈大悲咒〉五小時；喜捨院則在六祖堂恭誦《觀世音菩薩普門品》與觀世音菩薩聖號各兩小時。平日早晚課與下午的〈大悲懺〉照常舉行，傍晚四眾弟子共同到往生堂迴向，期以持誦與拜懺的力量，迴向疫情早日消除。

萬佛聖城鼓勵善信各自用功修行，共度全球難關。自曼都西諾縣宣布「居家避疫」辦法起，暫時謝絕訪客，以減少疫情傳播。萬佛聖城所屬「法界佛教總會」網站（www.drba.org/www.cttbusa.org及www.drbachinese.org），除有最新公告之外，「線上聆聽」部分，有宣公上人念誦（包括大悲咒）、佛經淺釋、法語開示、法界佛教總會各道場日常課誦，歡迎各界善信上網聆聽，一起念誦迴向。✿

Mantra he upheld; that is how he became the Bodhisattva with a thousand hands and a thousand eyes. The *Great Compassion Mantra* really has this inconceivable, wondrous, and spiritual Dharma power, capable of penetrating heaven and earth. As long as you are truly sincere and persevere in your recitation, you can dispel calamities and turn inauspicious situations into auspicious ones. This is wondrous beyond words; no language can ever fully express it.”

From March 8-14, 2020 (the period for which the spring 2020 Guanyin Session was originally scheduled), CTTB's Tathagata Monastery (TM) held a Guanyin Session called “The Guanyin Session of Great Compassion that Protects the World and Extinguishes Calamities in the Confucius Hall.” reciting the *Great Compassion Mantra* for five hours every day. At the Joyous Giving House (JGH)'s Sixth Patriarch Hall, the bikshunis and resident laywomen recited the *Universal Door Chapter* (from the Lotus Sutra) and Guanyin Bodhisattva's sacred name in both the morning and evening. In addition to this, every day CTTB continued to hold regular daily recitations, such as the Morning and Evening Ceremonies and, in the afternoon, the Great Compassion Repentance, and transference in the Rebirth Hall. In the evening, the fourfold assembly gathers at the Rebirth Hall to dedicate merit. They hope that, as a result of the merit derived from each day's recitation and repentance bowing, this pandemic can be eradicated as soon as possible.

CTTB encourages practitioners to cultivate at home or wherever they may be, in order to help the world get through this difficult time. CTTB has been closed to all visitors since Mendocino County announced the shelter-in-place rule in order to reduce the risk of spreading and contracting the virus. Dharma Realm Buddhist Association (DRBA), to which CTTB belongs, posts updates and announcements on the following websites: www.drba.org; www.cttbusa.org, and www.drbachinese.org, www.drba.edu, and www.igdv.org. In addition, online Dharma resources are available, such as audio files containing sutra lectures, Dharma talks, links to online classes, and the recitation of the Great Compassion Mantra by Venerable Master Hua. Daily recitations of DRBA branches are also available here. Everyone is welcome to come to our websites to share, listen, recite and dedicate merit together with us. ✿



新冠疫情下的瑜伽小鎮 (2020年3月27日至4月14日)

Ukiah During the
Coronavirus Pandemic
(March 27, 2020 - April 14, 2020)

