

法界佛教總會回顧2020年

Dharma Realm Buddhist Association 2020 Year-In-Review

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2020年是人類歷史上驚濤駭浪的一年，新冠疫情肆虐全球，對人類社會造成全方位的衝擊。疫情最嚴重的美國，這一年還有種族抗議運動，引發全美各大城市暴動；盛夏之際，美國數州又遭山火天災，大火延燒入秋。全球各地，天災不斷。

在這天災人禍相繼而來的一年，法界佛教總會各分支道場仍然每日功課不斷，以修行帶來安定的力量；若干分支道場並將法會上線，讓全球各地的善信都能上網參加。以下是2020年法總各分支道場的回顧：

美國
北加州
萬佛聖城

因應政府防疫規定，自三月中起謝絕訪客。任何住眾若有事出城，返城後必須至少隔離二週。城內劃分成不同的生活圈，福居樓的老法師自成一生活圈；



2020 has been a dark and turbulent year in human history. The coronavirus pandemic has raged across the globe, profoundly impacting all aspects of life. In the United States, where the virus is most severe, there have also been protests to end racial discrimination, which has triggered conflicts, violence, and unrest in cities across the country. At the height of the summer, several western states were also hit by large wildfires started by severe lightning storms, which burned through the autumn. It seemed there would be no end to natural disasters all around the world.

During this year of natural and manmade disasters, the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association and its branch monasteries have continued their daily activities, bringing about peace and stability through practice. Several branch monasteries moved their Dharma assemblies online, allowing people from all over the world to participate. The following are reflections on 2020 from DRBA branch monasteries throughout the world.

The United States
Northern California
The City of Ten Thousand Buddhas

The City has been closed to visitors since March, following the government's regulations regarding COVID. To reduce exposure to the residents in case there is an outbreak, the City

除了在福居樓的佛堂舉行早晚課之外，老法師們也透過網絡隨喜參加萬佛聖城的線上法會。

決定留校的中學住宿生和老師又是一生活圈；最大的生活圈則是僧俗二眾，依舊每日上殿過堂：早晚課、上供、拜願、誦《華嚴經》、拜〈大悲懺〉。和疫情前最大的不同是參加這些功課時，人員分散，時間縮短，必須戴口罩、維持安全間距、取消繞念。

從第二次觀音七起，大型法會包括觀音七、地藏七、彌陀七改為內部現場參加，城外信眾線上參加。平日週六法會也全天上線，每週二另有在家律儀線上課程。許多信眾表示，參加線上法會，攝受的力量比自修強得多。但打坐參禪法會是安靜的，不便上線，十一月底的禪三，只有下午四支香。彌陀七之後的冬季三週禪七預計改為「方便坐」，早晚課和上供午齋時間如常，其餘則是禪坐時間。

疫情期間，妙覺佛教學院第一期工程進展延緩，預定的九棟建築中，已完成五棟，另兩棟也開始動工，入冬後工程暫停。地藏殿整修工程在疫情中持續至秋後也暫停施工。山門翻修則進入最後鐫刻大字階段，預計2021上半年可完工。

金山寺

位於舊金山華埠內，入夏因逢「黑人的命也是命」全美抗議行動引發暴動，華埠多家商店、銀行均遭打砸搶，而金山寺安然無恙未受波及。疫情期間金山寺的週日法會全改為線上；十一月的梁皇寶懺雖然信眾只能在家中

has been divided into different social bubbles decreasing group sizes and reducing the possibility of spread to all the residents. The elderly nuns in the Tower of Blessings are one such bubble. In addition to morning and evening ceremonies in the Tower of Blessings, the elderly monastics sometimes join other CTTB ceremonies online. Dorm students and teachers are another bubble. The largest bubble is made up of monastics and lay volunteers who are permanent residents, who continue to attend morning and evening ceremony, meal offering, universal bowing, recitation of the *Avatamsaka Sutra*, and bowing the *Great Compassion Repentance*. The response to COVID has dramatically altered how these ceremonies are conducted: people observe six feet of social distancing, some ceremonies were shortened, face masks are required, and there is no circumambulation. Merit and virtue accrued from daily practices are transferred to the elimination of disasters and all living beings leaving suffering and attaining bliss.

Since the Summer 2020 Guanyin Session, large Dharma assemblies including the Guanyin Session, Earth Store Session, and Amitabha Session have been in-person for residents and online for non-residents. Regular online sessions include whole-day events on Saturdays and the Great Compassion Repentance and Laypeople Precepts classes on Tuesdays. Many participants said that joining online group practice is more powerful than practicing on one's own. However, Chan meditation requires silence and is therefore not considered as suitable for a virtual setting. The three-day Chan session at the end of November had only four one-hour sits in the afternoon. The original three-week winter Chan retreat was shortened to eight sitting periods a day, where morning and evening ceremonies as well as the meal offering will be kept as usual.

During the pandemic, the first phase of the construction of the Wonderful Enlightenment Buddhist Institute slowed down. Five of the planned nine buildings have been completed and two have been started. However, construction was halted during the winter. Renovation of the Earth Store Building continued until the beginning of the fall while work on the Mountain Gate entered the last stage of engraving and is projected for completion during the first half of 2021.

Gold Mountain Monastery

Gold Mountain Monastery is located in San Francisco's Chinatown, which was also one of the sites of Black Lives Matter protests this summer. While many shops and banks in Chinatown were broken into and looted, Gold Mountain Monastery was untouched. During the pandemic, all Sunday ceremonies in Gold Mountain Monastery were moved online, as was Emperor Liang's Repentance in November. Despite this, its memorial plaques remained fully booked during the Emperor Liang's Repentance.

上網參加，但金山寺牌位依舊全滿。

柏克萊佛寺

疫情之前，柏克萊佛寺的線上講經早已行之有年。疫情期間，柏克萊佛寺將道場每日功課在線直播。佛寺每位法師都開設線上講經說法課程，內容豐富。八月中旬起，加州有數百處山火同時燃燒，柏克萊佛寺特地推出線上大悲咒法會。十二月上旬的佛七，更在線上傳授八關齋戒。一位僧眾的母親表示，跟隨線上功課，使她比疫情前用功得多。

金聖寺

位於聖荷西東區的金聖寺，在2020年二月舉行三週華嚴法會後不久即封山。五月份起推出週日上午的在線《楞嚴經》講座。八月份加州山火有兩大火場靠近聖荷西，金聖寺僧眾每日增加持誦108遍〈大悲咒〉，數日內即脫離紅色撤離警告區。九月份舉行線上地藏七，十一月的梁皇寶懺邀請柏克萊佛寺的比丘線上傳授八關齋戒。金聖寺的信眾表示，能在線上看到佛像和法師一起拜懺，很法喜。

法界聖城

疫情開始後，所有法會改為內部住眾參加。但每週提供線上課程，包括週五的戒律課、週六「水鏡回天錄」、週日「八德課」，每次上課一個半小時，都採中英雙語進行。法界聖城自疫情前已開始籌建大雄寶殿，疫情期間有更多時間進行籌備工作。

南加州

金輪寺、長堤市

洛杉磯金輪寺與長堤市的長堤聖寺都閉關自修；長堤市的福祿壽聖寺則於每天下午五時至六時半舉行線上〈楞嚴咒〉法會，六時半開始的晚課也上線，與大眾結法緣。

Berkeley Buddhist Monastery

Before the pandemic, Berkeley Buddhist Monastery (BBM) had already been doing online lectures for years. Now, BBM has moved all of its daily ceremonies online and all of the Dharma Masters lecture online. In response to the hundreds of wildfires that have raged in California since August, BBM began a special online Great Compassion Mantra recitation ceremony. During the Amitabha session in December, BBM transmitted the Eight Precepts online. The mother of one of the Dharma Masters said that following online sessions helped her be more vigorous in her practice than before the pandemic.

Gold Sage Monastery

Gold Sage Monastery, located in eastern San Jose, closed shortly after a three-week Avatamsaka Session in February 2020. Starting in May, it began its Sunday morning online lecture series on the *Shurangama Sutra*. In August, when two large wildfires were near San Jose, the Dharma Masters in Gold Sage Monastery recited the *Great Compassion Mantra* 108 times a day. After many days, the danger passed and the evacuation warning was lifted. In September, the Earth Store Session was held online. In November, Emperor Liang's repentance was held online, and monks from the Berkeley Buddhist Monastery were invited to transmit the Eight Precepts. Disciples who go to Gold Sage Monastery said that they were happy to see Dharma Masters online and bow in repentance with them.

City of the Dharma Realm

Since the pandemic, all Dharma assemblies have been only open for residents. However, weekly bilingual (English and Chinese) 1.5-hour classes are still offered online: Friday's precepts class, Saturday's Reflections in Water and Mirrors class, and Sunday's Eight Virtues class. Before the pandemic, the City of the Dharma Realm had already begun preparations for building the Great Jeweled Buddha Hall. They have had more time for preparations since the Pandemic.

Southern California

Blessings, Prosperity, and Longevity Monastery; Gold Wheel Monastery; and Long Beach Monastery

華盛頓州 金峰寺

因應疫情，金峰寺將2020年的法會作了一些調整。例如每週日的法會一律改為上午兩小時〈楞嚴咒〉、下午一個半小時〈大悲咒〉。十二月的佛七也改為〈大悲咒〉法會，信眾上線參加。2018年底，金峰寺購置了馬路對面的一棟辦公樓。疫情期間，正好整理維修這棟辦公樓，進度雖慢但不間斷。期望疫情後，金峰寺能以擴充的新貌繼續接引眾生。

馬利蘭州:華嚴精舍

疫情期間，正是加緊用功的時刻。從三月份暫時關閉之後，華嚴精舍的法師們平日上午持誦〈楞嚴咒〉二小時、下午〈大悲懺〉加誦〈大悲咒〉多遍。週日法會上線，輪流拜〈藥師懺〉和〈水懺〉。位於大華府地區的華嚴精舍，法師們每日安靜做功課，也希望大家都能平安度過疫情。

加拿大

卑詩省:金佛寺

從3月份閉門用功一段時間後，溫哥華金佛寺自8月份起，恢復講經法會，每週一、二繼續往日小班制的《楞嚴經》研究班，但改為線上討論。廣受歡迎的每月放生活動，因人數超過防疫規定，必須暫停。目前金佛寺每天拜〈大悲懺〉，每週日加誦《地藏經》，以迴向疫情早日結束。

艾伯塔省:華嚴寺

疫情開始後，華嚴寺設立一大牌位，牌位主正是「2019年新型冠狀病毒肺炎」（COVID-19）。華嚴

Gold Wheel Monastery in Los Angeles and Long Beach Monastery in Long Beach have both closed their doors and their residents are practicing in seclusion. Blessings, Prosperity, and Longevity Monastery in Long Beach holds a Shurangama Mantra recitation session online every day from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m, followed by the Evening Ceremony, also online; these ceremonies create Dharma affinities with all participants.

Washington State

Gold Summit Monastery

Gold Summit Monastery made several adjustments to its Dharma assemblies in 2020 because of the pandemic. For example, all the Sunday ceremonies were changed to two hours of *Shurangama Mantra* recitation in the morning and 1.5 hours of the *Great Compassion Mantra*. The Amitabha Session in December was also changed to an online *Great Compassion Mantra* session. At the end of 2018, Gold Summit Monastery purchased the office building across the street. During the pandemic, the monastery was able to slowly but steadily repair and organize this office building. The hope is that after the pandemic, a larger, renovated Gold Summit Monastery will be able to welcome more people.

Maryland: Avatamska Vihara

The pandemic is the time to be even more diligent in our practice. After temporarily closing in March, Dharma Masters in the Avatamsaka Vihara recite the *Shurangama Mantra* two hours every morning and bow the *Great Compassion Repentance* and recite the *Great Compassion Mantra* many times every afternoon. On Sunday, the monastery alternates between bowing the *Medicine Master Repentance* and the *Water Repentance*, all online. The vihara is located in the country's capital area and with the Dharma Masters practicing peacefully and quietly, it is hoped that everyone in the country can get through the pandemic safely.

Canada

British Columbia : Gold Buddha Monastery

After closing its doors in March, Gold Buddha Monastery in Vancouver resumed some of its normal ceremonies in August. It has restarted classes on the *Shurangama Sutra* on Mondays and Tuesdays, but moved the discussions online. The popular liberating-life ceremonies have had to be cancelled because the number of people who normally participated exceeded the prescribed limits for preventing the spread of the virus. Currently, [people in] Gold Buddha Monastery bow the *Great Compassion Repentance* every day and recite the *Earth Store Sutra* every Sunday, dedicating the merit to an early end of the pandemic.

寺為這橫掃全球的牌位主已拜了一部《華嚴經》、兩部《萬佛寶懺》、一部《梁皇寶懺》，並舉行一個月的「地藏法會」。華嚴寺也貼出暫時關閉的公告，對平日常來的居士則維持開放，但人數須遵守防疫規定。華嚴寺的法師相信，疫情期間，最安全的地方就是道場。

亞洲 香港

配合防疫政令，佛教講堂與慈興禪寺都閉門自修，也正好維修這兩座道場破舊失修的部分。慈興禪寺自5月10日起，提供線上《大悲咒》淺釋課程，每週三次，課程已結束。預計2021年將推出《六祖壇經》講經課程。

馬來西亞

馬來西亞也是疫情嚴重的國家之一，法界佛教總會在馬來西亞的五座分支道場自3月18日起，都已閉門自修，佛學班也停課，只有吉隆坡的法界觀音聖寺（登彼岸）提供線上法會。法緣聖寺的幼兒園小朋友，則於疫情嚴峻時在家上課，疫情放緩時，每週分批輪流到校上課。

台灣

台灣防疫成效是世界各國的典範，法界佛教總會在台灣的道場包括台北法界佛教印經會、花蓮彌陀聖寺、高雄法界聖寺都配合政令逐步開放，並自十月份起完全開放給居士參加法會。但參加者必須事先報名，法會全程必須戴口罩。

台北法界每天下午拜《大悲懺》，週日法會改為半天，每月一次全天法會。花蓮彌陀聖寺仍維持每月一次三天

Alberta: Avatamsaka Monastery

When the pandemic started, Avatamsaka Monastery set up a large plaque for COVID-19. As the plaque is for a virus that has swept the whole world, the monastery has already recited the *Flower Adornment Sutra* once, bowed the *10,000 Buddhas Jeweled Repentance* twice and *Emperor Liang's Jeweled Repentance* once, and held a month long Earth Store Session. The monastery has announced that they are closed to the public but open to volunteers who come regularly, provided everyone follows government regulations and the number of volunteers is within the prescribed limit for preventing the spread of the virus. The Dharma Masters [at Avatamsaka Monastery] believe that the virtue of practicing with diligence and helping both oneself and others will bring about proper energy and thus benefit heaven and earth.

Asia

Hong Kong

The Buddhist Lecture Hall and Cixing Monastery both closed in accordance with government regulations, which allowed for both places to undergo repairs. Cixing Monastery hosted a *Great Compassion Mantra* lecture course three times a week starting in October and the course was completed by the end of December. The monastery plans to hold a *Sixth Patriarch's Platform Sutra* lecture course in 2021.

Malaysia

Malaysia is one of the countries with a serious COVID outbreak. All five DRBA branch monasteries in Malaysia have been closed to the public since March 18. They have also stopped their Buddhist classes with the exception of the online Dharma assemblies offered by Dharma Realm Guanyin Sagely Monastery. When the outbreak was severe, the kindergarten at Dharma Affinities Sagely Monastery was moved online. As the situation improved, children were allowed to return to class in groups taking turns each week.

Taiwan

Taiwan has been quite successful in managing the COVID. As a result, all Dharma Realm Buddhist Association branch monasteries in Taiwan have gradually reopened in coordination with government regulations. These include Taipei Dharma Realm Buddhist Books Distribution Society, Amitabha Monastery in Hualien, and Dharma Realm Sagely Monastery in Kaohsiung. Starting in October 2020, they all opened up for the laypeople to join their Dharma assemblies provided that participants register beforehand and wear face masks.

Taipei Dharma Realm bows the *Great Compassion Repentance* every

的楞嚴法會；每月一天「彌陀時光」，專修淨土法門。高雄法界聖寺自完全開放後，每月有兩個週日舉行華嚴法會和〈楞嚴咒〉法會；另已舉辦觀音七，十二月還有佛七，並傳八關齋戒；平日則每天都安排講經時間，包括《楞嚴經》、《法華經》、《華嚴經》、《華嚴經疏玄談》。

澳洲

澳洲金岸法界從2020年3月21日完全關閉，5月底逐步放寬進入半開放狀態，信眾須向道場申請，經批准後可進入道場參加法會活動，直到耶誕節前才又貼出關閉告示。

疫情發生後，金岸法界呼籲信眾通過網絡積極參與講經及法會共修活動，並通過網站、臉書、微信公眾號、微信群、Line等社交媒體和信眾保持互動。金岸法界從2月2日即開始通過網絡發起〈楞嚴咒〉共修100萬遍迴向新冠肺炎疫情早日結束，至12月下旬已完成71萬遍。

目前道場每周固定的在線法會有：周六上午的《普門品》，下午〈楞嚴咒〉共修及往生堂回向，周日中午恒實法師講《華嚴經》等。下半年藥師法會、地藏七、觀音七、楞嚴七和佛七得以舉辦，並在網絡直播。

疫情期間，金岸法界擴建第二期工程繼續進行，包括廚房、齋堂、流通處、山門，已接近完工。

結語：

這場百年大疫的積極面是給法師們用功的機會，也給在家人多一些機會用功。所謂「成就修行，即是成就道場」，也就有能力真正幫助社會安定、眾生平安。疫情過後，期望更多人能發出自性的光明。❀

afternoon, and has shortened its Sunday ceremonies to half-day, with a full day of ceremonies only once a month. Amitabha Monastery in Hualien continues to hold a three-day Shurangama Session once a month and a one day Amitabha session to practice the Pure Land Dharma door. After Dharma Realm Sagely Monastery in Kaohsiung reopened, they have been hosting an Avatamsaka session and a Shurangama Mantra session two Sundays a month. They have also hosted a Guanyin Session and an Amitabha Session, and transmitted the Eight Precepts. They have lectures every day on the *Shurangama Sutra*, the *Dharma Flower Sutra*, the *Avatamsaka Sutra*, and *National Master Ching Liang's Prologue to the Avatamsaka Sutra*.

Australia

Gold Coast Dharma Realm closed to the public on March 21, 2020. In late May, the monastery gradually relaxed its restrictions in a partial reopening. Disciples there have to apply and be approved by the monastery before attending ceremonies or events. However, the monastery announced it was shutting down again before Christmas.

After the pandemic struck, Gold Coast Dharma Realm called on its Buddhist community to participate actively in ceremonies and lectures online. It kept in contact with the community through social media platforms: its website, Facebook, WeChat, Line, and more. Since February 2, Gold Coast Dharma Realm began a group effort online to recite the *Shurangama mantra* one million times, transferring the merit accrued to the pandemic ending soon. They reached 710,000 times by the end of December.

Currently, the monastery includes the following in its weekly schedule: recitation of the *Universal Door Chapter* on Saturday morning, recitation of the *Shurangama Mantra* and dedication of merit in the Rebirth Hall on Saturday afternoon, and Rev. Heng Sure's lectures on the *Avatamsaka Sutra* at noon on Sundays. In the second half of 2020, the monastery held a Medicine Master Buddha Session, Earth Store session, Guanyin Session, Shurangama Session, and Amitabha Session — all online.

During the pandemic, construction to expand Gold Coast Dharma Realm continued, including work on its kitchen, dining hall, donation department, and mountain gate. The work is almost complete.

The silver lining of this once-in-a-century pandemic is that both monastics and laypeople have had the opportunity to work harder in their practice. As the saying goes: "As long as people cultivate well, then the monastery is successful," and then society can be safe and all beings at peace. We hope that when the pandemic is over, more people can uncover the light of their inherent nature. ❀