

2024年萬佛聖城第一次觀音七

The First Guanyin Session in the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas in 2024

戚帆文 文/譯

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萬佛聖城於3月24日舉行慶祝觀音菩薩聖誕法會，並自當天起至3月30日止，舉行2024年第一次觀音七，這次觀音七的特色是參加的年輕人特別多。

萬佛聖城今年第一次觀音七，恰逢法界佛教大學（法大）和培德中學、育良小學都放春假，沒有出城的師生，紛紛掌握機會來共修。法大推廣課程的學員也有多人前來，佛殿裡頓時增加數十張年輕的面孔。這群年輕人不僅誠心參加法會，更主動參與出坡工作，在心繫觀音菩薩的同時，也積功累德，廣修善業。

傳授「八關齋戒」是慶祝觀音菩薩聖誕法會當天，早課後的第一項活動。不需事先報名，因

The City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) celebrated Guanyin Bodhisattva's birthday with a ceremony on March 24. The first Guanyin Session at CTTB in 2024 was held from March 24 to March 30. This session was notable for the significant participation of many young people.

The first Guanyin Session at CTTB this year coincided with the spring break of Dharma Realm Buddhist University (DRBU) and Instilling Goodness and Developing Virtue Schools (IGDVS). Teachers and students not out of town took the opportunity to practice together. Many students from the Extension program at DRBU also joined, so the Buddha Hall was filled with dozens of young faces. This group of young people sincerely attended the session and took the initiative to participate in community work. While being mindful of Guanyin Bodhisattva, the participants also accumulated merits and virtue and cultivated wholesome karma.

Transmitting the Eight Vegetarian Precepts was the first event after morning recitation on the celebration of Guanyin Bodhisattva's birthday. Registration in advance was not required, so most lay people

此參加早課的居士，大多留下受戒。受持八關齋戒，念佛發願往生極樂世界，可得中品中生乃至上品上生。正如《佛說八種長養功德經》中的偈頌所言：「我持戒行，莊嚴其心，令心喜悅，廣修一切相應勝行，求成佛果，究竟圓滿。」

朝山、念誦〈普門品〉、持誦觀音菩薩聖號、普佛、瞻仰舍利是慶祝觀音菩薩聖誕法會的重要活動。萬佛聖城方丈恒律法師在午齋中開示指出：「經常聽人說，中彩券、買房、升官就快樂幸福，但過高的期望會帶來失望和壓力，所以無法享受當下的快樂。如果我們不期望那麼多，而且能不求回報的關懷別人的幸福，這就是眾善奉行、自淨其意、放下自我的執著、回到自性清淨的圓滿，我們一定會越來越快樂。」

比丘近聖法師則特別提到，很高興看到傳八關齋戒，他希望大家千萬不要怕受戒。當天按氣象預報，原本要下雨，結果天氣這麼好。記得上人開示講，因為觀音菩薩慈悲，每逢大法會，就不允許下雨，因為所有龍天都會護法，正如各位（信眾）誠心來護法一樣。

比丘尼近祥法師鼓勵大家誠心持誦觀音菩薩聖號，如此便能和觀音菩薩連結。當我們真正專一其心時，我們和觀音菩薩的相應，遠比簡訊要快得多，而且不需要任何高速上網，也不需要5G電信。何以致此？菩薩和我們的相應是基於我們本具的「聞性」，反聞聞自性。科技遠遠趕不上我們內在的覺性。

這次觀音七是萬佛聖城在2024年第一次傳授三皈五戒，共計三十餘人報名參加。傳授三皈五戒之前，宣公上人人生前住過的無言堂曾開放一個小時，供大家瞻仰佛陀舍

who attended the Morning Recitation stayed for the Eight Precepts. By observing the Eight Precepts, reciting the Buddha's name, and vowing to be reborn in the Land of Ultimate Bliss, one can achieve a middle-grade rebirth or even an upper-grade rebirth. As the verse in *The Buddha Speaks the Eight Kinds of Cultivation of Merits and Virtue Sutra* says, "I uphold the precepts and practice, solemnize my heart, make it happy, practice all the corresponding meritorious deeds extensively, and seek the fruition to achieve the ultimate perfection of Buddhahood."

Important events to celebrate the birthday of Guanyin Bodhisattva were the three steps and one bow pilgrimage from the mountain gate to the Buddha Hall, reciting the "Universal Door Chapter," reciting the name of Guanyin Bodhisattva, Universal bowing, and paying homage to the shariras of the Buddha, Venerable Elder Xuyun, and Venerable Master Hua. The abbot of CTTB, Dharma Master Heng Lyu, gave a Dharma talk during lunch. He pointed out, "People often say that winning the lottery, buying a house, or getting promoted will lead to happiness, but too high expectations will bring disappointment and stress, so you cannot enjoy the moment's happiness. Suppose we don't expect so much and can care about the happiness of others without asking for anything in return. In that case, we are practicing good deeds, purifying ourselves, letting go of our attachments, and returning to the perfection of purity of our nature. We will become happier and happier."

Bhikkhu Jin Sheng mentioned that he was very happy to see the Eight Vegetarian Precepts being transmitted and hoped that everyone would always be confident taking the precepts. According to the weather forecast that day, it was supposed to rain, but the weather was very fair. He remembered that the Venerable Master Hua said that because of the compassion of Guanyin Bodhisattva, rain would not be allowed to fall during the Dharma Assemblies because all the dragons and heavens would protect the Dharma, just as laypeople sincerely come to protect the Dharma.

Bhikshuni Jin Xiang encouraged everyone to recite Guanyin Bodhisattva's name sincerely so that you will connect with Guanyin Bodhisattva and Guanyin Bodhisattva will connect with you, too. When your awareness is truly unscattered, the mutual connection happens faster than texting or relying on fast internet. There is no need for 5G telecommunication. How can this be possible? The Bodhisattva's way of connecting with us is based on something we all share called the inherent "hearing nature," our awakened nature. Technology hasn't yet caught up with what is within us.

This Guanyin Session was the first time CTTB transmitted the

利、虛老舍利和宣公上人舍利。

觀音七期間，佛殿晚間除了播放宣公上人的錄音開示之外，法師們也輪流上台講法。比丘尼恒青法師提到她借助觀音法門解決自己的一大難題：每天拜〈大悲懺〉、誦〈普門品〉、拜觀音菩薩、持〈大悲咒〉、念誦觀音菩薩聖號，以上功課各多遍，另加四十二手眼。為了做完這些功課，她每天凌晨二時即起，半夜才就寢。她的問題因此逐漸改善，七個月後完全解決。

來自馬來西亞的廖寶琳，五歲時就有法師教她持誦觀音菩薩聖號。1988年母親黃玉梅帶她和全家人在吉隆坡一起皈依宣公上人，還蒙上人拍頭加持。這次陪同年邁的母親來到萬佛聖城參加觀音七，廖寶琳覺得十分幸運。希望今後每年都能陪同母親前來萬佛聖城共修，學習正法。

旅居德州達拉斯的84歲越南老居士阮氏，分享了她父親和觀音菩薩的因緣。猶記1947年，仍在越南抗法戰爭期間，她父親和其他五人同船渡河，要返回故鄉峴港市。在聽到戰機發出的噪音時，她父親立即不斷念誦觀世音菩薩聖號。那架戰機投下一枚炸彈，就在他們的船隻附近炸開，她父親旋即失去知覺。醒來時，發現自己躺在河岸，另外五名同船者已罹難。五年後，她父親出家，法名釋法眼。後來夢見觀音菩薩指示，得以在峴港市興建觀音寺。如今該寺每年觀音誕舉辦的觀音節，已成峴港市最大的年度活動之一，今年吸引了三十萬民眾參加。

田納西州孟菲斯市居民莎拉·薩提妮是第一次參加萬佛聖城觀音七，第四天忽然感覺身體不適，

Three Refuges and Five Precepts in 2024. More than thirty people signed up to participate. Before transmitting the Three Refuges and Five Precepts, the Wordless Hall, where Venerable Master Hua once lived, was opened for an hour for everyone to view and pay respect to the shariras of the Buddha, Venerable Elder Xuyun and Venerable Master Hua.

During the Guanyin Session, in addition to playing Venerable Master Hua's recorded talks in the evening, Dharma Masters also took turns giving Dharma talks on stage. Bhikshuni Heng Ching mentioned that she solved her major problem with the help of the Guanyin Method: Bowing Great Compassion Repentance, reciting "the Universal Door Chapter," bowing to Guanyin Bodhisattva, reciting the Great Compassion Mantra, and reciting Guanyin Bodhisattva's name, plus the Forty-two Hands and Eyes all daily. To complete these practices, she got up at two o'clock every day and went to bed at midnight. Her problem gradually improved and was resolved entirely after seven months.

Nancy Liew from Malaysia learned to recite Guanyin Bodhisattva's name from a Dharma master when she was five years old. In 1988, her mother, Ng Yoke Moi, took her and the whole family to refuge with Venerable Master Hua in Kuala Lumpur, and Master Hua even patted her head and blessed her. This time, she accompanied her elderly mother to CTTB to attend the Guanyin Session. Nancy Liew felt very lucky. She hoped that she could accompany her mother to CTTB every year to practice together and learn the Proper Dharma.

Thi Nguyen, an 84-year-old Vietnamese laywoman from Dallas, Texas, shared her father's affinity with Guanyin Bodhisattva. In 1947, during the French-Indochina War, her father and five others crossed the river in a boat to return to their hometown of Da Nang. Upon hearing the noise from a warplane, her father immediately chanted Guanyin Bodhisattva's name incessantly. The warplane dropped a bomb that exploded near their ship, and her father fell unconscious. When he woke up, he found himself lying on the river bank, and the other five people in the boat had died. Five years later, her father became a monk, and his Dharma name was Thích Pháp Nhân. Later, because of Guanyin Bodhisattva's instructions in his dreams, he was able to build Quán Âm (Guanyin) Monastery in Da Nang City. Today, the Guanyin Festival, held on Guanyin Bodhisattva's birthday every year by the temple, has become one of the largest annual events in Da Nang City, attracting 300,000 people this year.

Sarah Sartini from Memphis, Tennessee, attended the Guanyin Session in CTTB for the first time. On the fourth day, she suddenly

不能飲食，只好留在房間休養，並反省自己的過錯。第五天醒來，竟然神清氣爽，所有不適症狀都消失。她無法理解這一切變化，但她相信冥冥中自有觀音菩薩的感應。

法大碩士班學生劉利偉因為在這次觀音七期間受持八關齋戒，發覺通過每日少進食、或者僅吃一餐，當在大殿聽法，保持雙盤坐姿時，他的腿不像以前每天吃三餐時那麼疼痛了。身體不但變得輕快，而且體內的血氣循環也暢通無阻，打坐時能夠長時間雙盤，讓他喜出望外。

法大學生在三週前，才參加過每學期一次的「實修週」，念誦了四天的觀音菩薩聖號。參加這次的觀音七，更加深他們和觀世音菩薩的法緣。法大推廣課程並安排近傳法師和近威法師在第一天介紹參加觀音七的注意事項；包果勒教授在觀音七期間，有六個晚間為同學們講解觀音法門，讓同學們更深入。一位法大同學表示，萬佛聖城的觀音七日程緊湊得多，相形之下，法大實修週比較輕鬆。不過，也正因為聖城的觀音七日程緊湊，更容易攝心。✽

felt ill and could not eat or drink. She had to stay in her room to recuperate and reflect on her mistakes. When she woke up on the fifth day, she felt refreshed, and all the symptoms had disappeared. She couldn't understand all these changes, but she believed that Guanyin Bodhisattva influenced them.

A DRBU MA student, Will Liu, took the Eight Vegetarian Precepts during the Guanyin Session. While listening to the Dharma in the Buddha Hall and sitting cross-legged, he found that by eating less or eating only one meal a day, his legs no longer hurt as much as before when he had three meals a day. His body became lighter, and his blood circulation was much improved and unobstructed. He could sit cross-legged for a long time, which made him overjoyed.

Three weeks ago, DRBU students participated in the Contemplative Exercise Immersion (CEI) for the week; people recited Guanyin Bodhisattva's name for four days. Participating in this Guanyin Session deepened their affinities with Guanyin Bodhisattva. DRBU Extension program invited Master Jin Chuan and Master Jin Wei to introduce the tips for participating in the Guanyin Session on the first day. Professor Doug Powers spent six evenings during the Guanyin Session explaining the Guanyin Method to the students, allowing them to deepen their understanding. A DRBU student said that the schedule of the Guanyin Session in CTTB is much tighter, and in comparison, the DRBU CEI Week is relatively relaxed. However, because the Guanyin Session schedule in CTTB is tight, it is easier to be mindful of Guanyin Bodhisattva. ✽

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