BULLETIN

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浄土真宗本願寺派オーストラリア開教事務所

Hongwanji Buddhist Mission of Australia

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(日)は10時から

お磨きをする大

掃除の日です。

お内陣の仏具の

-年間の感謝を

込めてお仏具を

綺麗にしたいと≥

思います。(お

参りはありませる

ん。)お手伝い≶

を宜しくお願い

致します。合掌

12月27日

2020年度



今年の報恩講法要にお参り下さった皆さんと記念撮影

去る11月15日に、今年度も親鸞聖人 の遺徳を讃え、ご苦労を偲ぶ報恩講の 法要をキャンベラからパラスケヴォポ ロス師を英語のご講師に迎

え、この日集った11人の皆 様と共にお勤め致しまし

この日は、久しぶりに湖 城律子さん、ウォング理佳 さん、そして、ジョナサン シェアマンさんがお参りし て下さいました。



そして、いつもお参 り下さる三井綾子さ ん、奥山裕子さん、秋 吉壽和さんらもお参り 下さり、賑やかな報恩 講をお勤めすることが できました。

法要では、参拝者に 対する歓迎の言葉の (1173 - 1263)後、『報恩講の歌』の 唱和、『正信偈』(行譜)の読経と続き、 参拝者が順にお焼香を行いました。

次に、ジョン・パラスケヴォポロス師か ら英語の法話を頂きました。(英文面を参照下 さい)

そして日本語法話では、まず私たちが 報恩講のお参りをするのは、浄土真宗の 祖師、親鸞聖人が、有り難いお念仏の教

えを今を生きる私たち に残して下さり、阿弥 陀様がお念仏を通して 私たちが安心して幸せ に暮らせるよう見ま もっていることに感謝 するためであることを まずお話ししました。

法話をされるジョン

もくじ

報恩講法要厳修

お寺の予定表

今月のことば

報恩講法話

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お寺の予定表 - Calendar ★

Dec 20 (Sun) 11:00 am 日曜礼拝/Sunday Service (BCNSW)

27 (Sun) 10:00 am 大掃除 (おみがき/Year End Clean Up Day)

31 (Thu) 大晦日 / NYE 5 pm 除夜会/Joya-e

Happy New Year! 2021 (丑年/うしどし/Year of Ox)

Jan 1 (Fri) 元旦/NYD 10 am修正会/Shusho-e

10 (Sun) 11:00 am 一月祥月法要 /January Shotsuki Service (BCNSW)

24 (Sun) 11:00 am 日曜礼拝/Sunday Service (BCNSW)

25 (Mon) 〔本願寺報発行 / New Bulletin Issue〕

31 (Sun) 11:00 am 日曜礼拝/Sunday Service (BCNSW)

Feb 7 (Sun) 11:00 am 二月祥月法要 / February Shotsuki Service (BCNSW)

14 (Sun) 11:00 am 涅槃会/Nirvana Day Service (BCNSW)











「会てうて難みがり報う分とかう…教せるとるを考のそて生今て自でえて、がそしえ日のい活ちいらあに頂出でのみるで恩るをゃるに引出でのみるで恩るをあるにる



(本文より抜粋)

焼香する由紀美(上)と頌 君(下)(10/11/19)





毒和さん、シェアマン・ジョナサンさん、ウォング理佳さん、湖城律子さん、そして家内の**由紀美**へ感謝申し上げます。本当に有り難うございました。それにお参りしてくれた子供達、由信&頌君も有り難う!本当にようこそのご縁でした。

今年もご縁のあった皆様のお陰をもちまして、無事に報恩講をお勤め出来ましたことに深く感謝申し上げます。 合掌

オーストラリア開教事務所長 渡部 重信

2020年 報恩講 法話

念仏往生の願により 等正覚にいたる人 すなわち弥勒におなじくて 大般涅槃をさとるべし

『正像末法和讃 第26首』

まず、今日の報恩講にお参りをするに際し、何が一番大切なことなのかを考えてみたいと思います。報恩講という言葉を見ると、恩に報いる講(集い)となりますが、この日は「自分にとって報恩講とは何か」について自らに問うてみたいと思います。

自分自身はっきり言えることは、「報恩」は「知恩(恩を知る、恩徳を知る)」に始まる。だから、その知恩を感じることが自分にとっての報恩講のご縁ではないかと思っています。報恩は、恩に報いると書かれてありません。宗祖聖人の教えの恩徳を指していません。宗祖聖人の教えに出会わけです。ですから、その教えに出会わけです。ですから、その教えに出会わけです。ですから、その教えに出合そのりません。出会うことができているそのりまさをしみじみと考えるのがこの日であがうちゃんとしているのかを自らに問う日である



お焼香するジョン師(上)、三井さん(中)、由信君(下)

ということです。最初に言った知恩、恩徳を 知ること。本当に恩徳に遇っているのか。こ の確認こそが、報恩講に遇わせて頂いた、何 より大切な事なのではないかと思うのです。

親鸞聖人を語る前に、仏教の開祖である、お釈迦様についてお話をしたいと思います。

仏は梵語でブッダという言葉の音訳です。 元々、ブッダという言葉は「目覚めた人」という意味の普通名詞です。特定の誰かを表しているわけではありません。インドの古代で言えば、目覚めた人はみんなブッダです。インドには今でもジャイナ教という宗教があり、お釈迦様と同じ時代に生きたマハーヴィーラという人が開祖です。この方も可必が発展にいくと、ブッダはお釈迦様一人のことで固有名詞のように理解される様になってきました。

この様に仏は「目覚めた人」という意味であることを考えますと、仏教という言葉の意味は、「目覚めた人」が説いた「教え」だからます。これはわかりやすいですね?し、お釈迦様は目覚めたけれども、お容い人には、「目覚めた人」とのらないし、そもそも「目覚めた人」とが、お釈道を「問題になることです。ですから「目覚めた人」とは何か」というをに問題になることが、まず最初に重要に人」が、「目覚めた人とは何か」ということを説く教えということが、まず最初に重要になります。

お釈迦様の最初の説法にこのようなエピソードが残っています。 - お釈迦様はお覚りになった後、元々一緒に修行をしていた5人の修行者たちに説こうとしました。そして、お釈迦様が修行者に近づくと、修行者たちは「あの人は堕落した人だから立って後行者たちはる必要はない」と約束します。しかしお釈迦様が近づくにつれ、はっとして修行者たちは「友よ」「ゴータマよ」と立って迎えたのです(お釈迦様の名前は「ゴータマ・シッダールタ」と言います)。しかし、お釈迦様はこう言います。

「私を修行を完成した者と呼ばなければならない、ゴータマと呼んではならない」

そして、「あなた方も同じように目覚めた人と成る」と言って教えを説こうとされました。しかし修行者たちは、あなたがなぜ完成した者であるのかと非難したのです。「目覚めた人」であることをすぐには認めなかったのですね。お釈迦様は覚者の言葉に耳を傾けよと言うのですが、そのやりとりが3度繰り返され、遂に修行者たちが認め、教えが説かれ、その時お釈迦様とともに5人の新しい目覚めた人(ブッダ)が生まれたのです。これ

(3ページへつづく)

が、お釈迦様の教団の始まりです。このように「目覚めた人」そのもの を明らかにするのが、仏教との出会いの最初になります。

話を戻しまして、この修行者たちへの説法において、お釈迦様が「目覚めた人」であることを明らかにし、その覚りの内容を説き、そして新たに「目覚めた人」が生まれていったのです。ここに仏教ということの意義が明確に表されています。つまり、仏教は、「目覚めた人」とは何なのかを説く教えということが最初の意義です。そして「目覚めた人」が説いた真理についての教えということが第2の意義です。さらに、その真理に「目覚めた人」に成る方法を説く教えということが第3の意義です。ですから、お釈迦様の覚りによって何か救われるというのではなく、仏に出会って教えを聞き、同じ覚りに到るというところに、仏教の特徴があります。

この様に仏教では、天国や恵みを与えられるのではなくて、覚りが与えられるわけです。それによって「仏に成る」のです。つまり仏教とは、仏に成る教えです。これが他の宗教と違う特徴的なところです。キリスト教では、人間が神に成ることはありえません。神道でも、一部の人が亡くなった後に神として祀られるという考え方はありますが、神道の教えによって神に成るという教えではありません。

しかし仏教は、覚りを得た人の教えによって、一人ひとりが目覚めた存在、「仏」に成っていくのです。その方法がインドから中国、朝鮮半島、日本に渡って、教えに少しずつ違いが出てきますが、基本的には仏に成る方法を説いています。例えば天台宗の比叡山では、「千日回峰行」と言って、千日間に渡って山の中を走り回ったり、或いはお堂に籠ったりする大変厳しい修行があります。これも目覚めるための修行です。また、「座禅」も目覚めるための修行です。

その中で浄土系の仏教として、法然上人の「浄土宗」や、親鸞聖人を祖師と仰ぐ我が「浄土真宗」があります。私たちの教えは「阿弥陀仏の浄土に生まれる」ということを説いています。この浄土への往生は、極楽往生という言い方もしますね。勘違いされやすいのですが、それは楽なところ、楽しいところに行く話ではなく、仏に成りに行くのです。ですからこの楽は、私たちの思う楽ではなく、煩悩を滅した、涅槃という究極の楽を意味します。極楽は、そこで修行して目覚めるために行くのです。そして、極楽浄土に生まれていくことを、「往生」と言います。往生は、阿弥陀様の本願力によって、凡夫である自分自身が極楽浄土に生まれて往くことを言います。

昔は御法話で「死ぬと思うな生まれると思え」と説かれてきました。お浄土に生まれるというのは、阿弥陀様と同じ大きな悟りを得て仏となることです。親鸞聖人は、阿弥陀様の誓われた念仏往生の願(第十八願)によって往生することを真宗とされています。それも、死んだ後に往生が決まるのではなく、煩悩具足の凡夫が阿弥陀様のご本願に目覚め気づかせていただいた時に、即ち真実信心をいただいた時、煩悩のままの私の往生成仏が決定すると説かれています。それを「不退の位」とも「等正覚」とも説かれて、弥勒菩薩が必ず成仏するのが定まっているのと同じく、この世において必ず成仏することが決定すると説かれています。これを「現生入(げんしょうにゅう)正定聚(この世で正しく成仏の定まった集まりに入る)」として、親鸞聖人の教えの要となっています。

ただ一般には「往生」を困って動きの取れない事として使われています。これは「平家物語」や歌舞伎で有名な弁慶の最後の場面で、弁慶が全身に矢を受けて、眼を見開いて立ったまま往生し、敵がその姿に一歩も動くことが出来なかったことから来ています。往生が死んで浄土に生まれることから、弁慶の死を意味するのですが、動きがとれないとか、困惑するというのは派生的な意味で「往生」の正しい意味ではありません。浄土真宗では、この煩悩をかかえたままの自分が、浄土に生まれて仏となるというのですから、これにまさる大きな感動はありません。

今月のことば

Words of this month

坂東性純(-九三二-二00四) 「仏」なのです そのですが終めならら

"The working of wisdom and compassion itself is the Buddha'."

by Rev Shojun Bando (1932-2004)





『2020(令和2)年法語カレンダー』(真宗教団連合 刊)より Dharma Words Calendar

(4ページへつづく)

念仏往生の願により 等正覚にいたる人 すなわち弥勒におなじくて 大般涅槃をさとるべし

『正像末法和讃 第26首』

親鸞聖人は、自力の修行によって煩悩を断ち切って、悟りの境地にいたる仏道から、ひたすら弥陀の本願を信じ、お念仏を申すという他力の仏道への大転換がなされたということです。これを回心といいます。

回心とは、これまでの生き方、生きるよりどころをガラッと転換することです。ご自分のことについてはあまり語られなかった親鸞聖人が『顕浄土真実教行証文類』の後序で、「然るに愚禿釈の鸞、建仁辛酉(かのとり)の暦:(1201年)、雑行を棄てて、本願に帰す」と告白されています。

「雑行を棄てて、本願に帰す」とは、「あれやこれやと自己のはからいによる修行を棄てさって、弥陀の本願に帰命する」という意味です。9歳で得度をされた親鸞聖人は、20年の間、比叡山で日々厳しい修業をされました。しかし煩悩を棄てて悟りを開くという意味では覚る事ができず、悩まれた聖人は、聖徳と子ゆかりの六角堂に百日の参籠をされます。その95日日の明け方に、夢の中に救世観音の声を聞かれたのす。その声に導かれて聖人は、京の町で念仏の教えを説いておられる法然上人を訪ねられました。それらまた百日の間、雨の日も何が起ころうとならまた百日の間、雨の日も何が起ころうとならまた百日の間、木の教えを聞かれました。そして、原弥陀如来の本願によって、煩悩を断たずに往生を得ることのできる他力の教えに導かれたのです。その教え

の教えの要は 「本願を信じ 念仏申さば 成仏する」 というのであります。

この他力の仏道こそ、念仏の教えです。その他力 念佛の教えを今の世に伝えて下さった親鸞聖人に感 謝の意を表す日がこの報恩講なのです。今日は、本 当にありがたいご縁にあって下さいました。合掌

仏教スクリプチャー(聖典講読)クラスが終了!



西ゴードン小学校 での仏教聖典講読ク ラスでは、先学期 釈迦様の生い立ちと

は、お釈迦様の生い立ちと その教えを分かりやすい言 葉で生徒たちにお話しして きました。





11月25日をもって今年の授業もすべて終わり、最後の日には学校

事務室の前で 生徒会長から 感謝の言葉と ギフトを頂き ました。



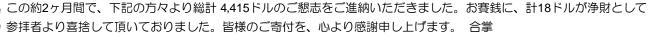
学校からのギフ ト(25/11/20)

第 (渡部)

お釈迦様のビデオを見る生徒たち(25/11/20)

ご懇念録

Expression of Dana/Gratitude



In the past month, donations to the amount of \$4,415.00 were offered to the Amida Buddha through the Hongwanji Buddhist Mission of Australia. HBMA members and attendants have also deposited \$18.00 in the donation box which deposited to the Hongwanji Temple of Sydney Building fund. The HBMA acknowledges the donors and would like to express our sincerest gratitude to the following for their generous donations:

- * Rev George Gatenby Membership Pledge/Contribution
- * Rev John Paraskevopoulos Membership Pledge/Contribution
- * Mr/Mrs Yoshiaki & Seiko Matsunaga Membership Pledge/Contribution
- * Mr Roy Cooke -Membership Pledge/Contribution
- * Mrs Ayako Mitsui-Browne Donations
- * Rev Takashi Miyajima Membership Pledge/Contribution
- * Ms Akiko Minami Grandfather's 33rd year memorial
- * Ms Yumi Uejima-Sadoria Father's memorial
- * Mr Fujio Shizuka Membership Pledge/Contribution
- * Ms Mayumi Saito Membership Pledge/Contribution
- st Mr Maximilian Johan Nilsson Ladner Special Donation
- * Mr Hisakazu Akiyoshi Donations
- * Ms Jennifer Crawford Special donation
- * Mr Jonathan Shearman Donation for Hoonko
- * Ms Keiko Yokoi Mother's 13th Memorial
- * Ms Yoshiko Gault Special donation
- * Buddhist Council of NSW Chaplain fund subsidy
- * Japan Club of Sydney Printing honorarium (Nov& Dec/20)





Thank you very much in Gassho

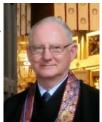


NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE 2020

To all HBMA Members and friends

To all my fellow HBMA members.

2020 has been a truly difficult year for so many of us. The loss of life, especially, is sad beyond expression. Who would have thought, as 2019 was coming to an end, that 2020 would be so different and challenging from the way we were living then? Yet the



events of 2020 remind us of the truth that nothing in this world can escape from the three immutable facts of life: impermanence, not-self and suffering. There is just one thing that we can rely on and that is Namo Amida Butsu. For Amida Buddha's compassionate light embraces all people of nembutsu and is entirely and constantly reliable and trustworthy, holding onto us - even through our most difficult times and experiences.

I hope 2021 will be a better time for us all, especially because we accept the call of the Vow of

Amida Buddha, entrusting ourselves to it without equivocation, and living in the light of his compassion.

In Gassho,

Rev George Gatenby, Adelaide

During the course of 2020, we have had many opportunities to contemplate the precarious nature of the world. The reality of so much sickness and death has served as a sobering reminder of how suddenly fragile human existence can become. Yet this has



also afforded us the chance to reflect on what we really value and hold precious. It is during times of crisis and instability that the teachings of the Dharma can speak to us most vividly. The call of the Primal Vow is a constant reminder that our only true refuge in the face of loss, grief and uncertainty is the immeasurable light and life of Amida Buddha. When this reality becomes awakened in our lives, we are sustained by a quiet steady joy which the world cannot take from us. This then leads us to a greater empathy with those who are suffering and, over and above any practical support we can give others, we should always be prepared to share the spiritual nourishment offered by Shinran with those who are ready to receive it.



Please take care during the festive season. Enjoy time with your loved ones and be sure to get some rejuvenating rest after what has been a difficult year

In Gassho,

Rev John Paraskevopoulos, Canberra





BULLETIN



This year these words of Shinran Shonin quoted in Tannisho ring truer than ever - '...with a foolish being full of blind passions, in this fleeting world - this burning house - all matters without exception are empty and false, totally without

truth and sincerity. The Nembutsu alone is true and real.' I hope that saying the Nembutsu has seen everyone through this difficult year. The new year will bring its own challenges. We should do our best to stay well, look after each other and just say the Nembutsu.



In Gassho,



Rev Mark Healsmith, Canberra

Enjoying Online Classes!

Rev Watanabe is continuing to enjoy learning more about Buddhist teachings and Shinran's writings by taking part in an on-going lecture series of Shoshinge.



Rev (Shikyo) Shobun Naito taught Rin'ne Tensho / Reincarnation on 9 November (Left).



Then, Rev Daisuke Yatsuhashi taught Shoshinge Lecture regarding Shakyamuni Buddha on 12 November. (Left)

Most recently, Rev Koki Shibahara delivered another lecture on the

Shoshinge, specifically about Nagarjuna (Ryuju), the first of the Seven masters of Jodo Shinshu on 10 December. (Bottom)

In Gassho,



The value of life should not wholly depend on external occurrences or on anything that can be taken away from us. We see this attitude exemplified in the following remark by Shinran: "Although my defiled life is filled with all kinds of desires and delusions, my mind is playing in the Pure Land".

The word refuge means to seek shelter or protection from a place of danger or difficulty. It derives from the Latin re-fugere, to 'flee back' to something. The wisdom imparted by Amida reveals that nothing in this world can completely fulfill our desires, such that desire is forever eliminated. This is because our hearts are made for something that vastly exceeds this world.

In other words, our true refuge must be in that which puts an end to not only old age, sickness and death but also the torments of human love, sorrow and pleasure; that is, we are encouraged to seek safe harbour in a happiness that can never be lost.

In tackling the practical question of how we take refuge, Shinran encourages us to discard the mind of self -power by not trying "to make yourself worthy through mending the confusion in your acts, words and thoughts, confident of your own powers and guided by your own calculation".

He also admonishes us to "abandon the conviction that one is good, to cease relying on the self; to stop reflecting knowingly on one's evil heart and, further,

to abandon the judging of people as good and bad". When this happens, we notice a gradual conversion in us whereby we come to rest in what feels like a secure clasp that will not let us go.



This isn't just some Everyone was listening carefully to the Dharma message from Rev John Paraskevopoulos (15/11/2020)

sentimental illusion in desperate response to our need for comfort

in the face of an uncertain future—a common criticism of religion today.

On the contrary, we are presented here with something very real that can be verified through the impact it has on our lives. The working of the Primal Vow envelops us in a vivid awareness that is gentle and composed.

Seeing as we clearly do not possess such qualities ourselves, we're able to understand that they are not something we have created from the poor ingredients of our flawed personalities. In this way, we come to acquire a natural and unforced humility. Also, when we find ourselves at ease in this embrace, our suffering is lightened because we discover our true self that is invulnerable.

This is what the tradition means by spiritual protection, regardless of what happens to our bodies. Resting in Amida's Light and Life is freedom; therefore we feel truly at home in it and come to reject the preoccupations of our little self and its tyrannical obsessions.

As the world cannot give us this composure, neither can it deprive us of it; and while our ailing human nature still remains intact, its potential to disturb us is subdued, like a scorpion deprived of its sting.

To take refuge in Amida is simply to discard everything about us that is not reliable. This, of course, does not mean neglecting our duties and responsibilities in life but it does imply that we don't confuse functional living with the authentic life that is only possible when Amida's mind arises and becomes settled in us. Shinran describes it as indestructible, like a diamond, in contrast to our own unstable thoughts and feelings.

The vow that Amida made to rescue all beings from their terrible plight is also an encouragement to seek the help that is always available to us. To accept it with thankfulness is not some kind of weak capitulation or a simple concession to fear. It is the dawning of wisdom in us that sees the need for there to be less of 'us' and more of Amida in our hearts and minds.

Taking refuge is to receive the warming light so that our chilly darkness is banished. This is dying to our false self—the origin of all grief—and becoming rejuvenated as a being destined for Nirvana, a foretaste of which is given to us even now as we rejoice in the great

> message of unconditional compassion that declares: "No one is left behind".

In Gassho, Rev John Paraskevopoulos



Scripture Class 2020 concluded at Gordon West Public School

Gordon West Public School's Buddhist Scripture class successfully

> concluded on 25th November for 2020.

It was a very challenging year, however we were able to learn about the basic teachings Shakyamuni Buddha, and His life.

In Gassho,





Rev Watanabe received a gift from the School after the final lesson of 2020 on 25 November.

The following message was delivered by Rev John Paraskevopoulos at the Ho-On-Ko service on 15 November 2020



HOONKO 2020 DHARMA TALK

Rev John Paraskevopoulos

The taking of refuge goes back to the earliest days of Buddhism. During that time, it was considered vitally important to rely on the wisdom of the Buddha, the teachings he left behind and the community he founded.

As the Buddhist tradition developed over the centuries into what became the Mahayana (or 'Greater Vehicle'), the object of refuge continued to be the teachings and community of followers but the focus

of devotion gradually shifted away from the historical Buddha, Shakyamuni.



Rev John Paraskevopoulos sharing his Dharma message

This was because, after his death, Dharma message disciples began to see that what

made him enlightened was a quality or presence transcending his earthly personality which could, nevertheless, continue to furnish spiritual guidance in this life.

In Shin Buddhism, this presence—known to us as Amida—is a dimension of ultimate reality that has taken form as a great cosmic Buddha which permeates, yet surpasses, all things. According to the tradition, it was this Buddha that Shakyamuni became awakened to in his enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree. Indeed, the time-bound Buddha of history is seen as a manifestation, in our world, of the limitless one in response to the needs of suffering beings.

For Shinran, it is Amida that is the true object of our refuge. As Shakyamuni is no longer among us as a living presence, we must be supported by the reality that lies behind his enlightenment; something that is everpresent to us now, with which we can have a relationship that is supremely intimate.

Having clarified the origins of this notion, how are we to understand the taking of refuge in a practical sense? What are we expected to do? The first thing one might ask is why we should even worry about refuge in the first place. Is there anything about our situation in life that makes it necessary?

We have previously mentioned the fact of our 'incompleteness' as human beings. When we reflect on ourselves, we sense an innate need for spiritual fullness. In ordinary life, we sometimes feel dislocated as if we're not entirely in tune with our surroundings. There is a sense of isolation in realising how remote we can be from others or, indeed, from any sources of significant meaning in our lives. What constitutes human flourishing? Is it simply physical comfort and convenience? One could argue, for instance, that our great-



grandparents led happier and more purposeful lives than us even though they lived under much more difficult conditions. Perhaps this had to do with greater resilience, wisdom and prudence or the quality of their relationships. In any case, the point is that we often mistake what we really need for things that are of no real benefit to



Flowers of the shrine were beautifully arranged (15/11/20)

Shinran insisted that we must take refuge in that which is 'true and real', in contrast to what he called the 'lies and gibberish' of this world where so much unreality and falsehood abounds. Moreover, our minds and bodies also happen to be on fire with the flames of greed, lust, hatred and delusion. Therefore there is nothing in us, either, in which we can take refuge.

Our besieged self cannot offer anything capable of giving us equilibrium and stability in the face of life's vicissitudes. We often resist this difficult truth because we feel that it would mean somehow losing autonomy—the sense of being in control of our lives—which we take to be crucial to who we are. However, this independence that we value so much will seem as nothing when we are shown our complete reliance on the immense life that transcends us and sustains all things.

If we cannot bank on our body, intellect, feelings, opinions—or our personality generally—to withstand the onslaught of life's misfortunes, then we are in trouble. Unless, of course, we have found something that is more than just what happens to pass away. If we do discover this, then there is an end to the agonising ordeal involved in resisting all those forces that threaten our identity and sense of self-worth.

When confronted by that which is wholly trustworthy, we no longer fight back against our imagined foes and learn to accept the unchangeable realities of life. In doing so, the aggrieved ego is finally resolved in the light of Amida, accepts its limitations and finds peace.

After a while, we are made to see that it is not the external world that is the problem but, rather, our reaction to it. This means that we must be transformed by the workings of the Primal Vow so that we're able to remain largely undaunted in the face of life's changing circumstances which are, for the most part, beyond our powers to influence or control.

(Continues on page 3)

BULLETIN

Hongwanji Buddhist Mission of Australia



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A Successful 2020 HO-ON-KO Service Observed on Sunday, 15 November 2020



Members and supporters once again gathered at HBMA and commemorated Shinran Shonin's memorial day observing Ho-on-ko service. (Front row L-R): Rev John Paraskevopoulos, Rev Watanabe, (Back row L-R): Mr Hisakazu Akiyoshi, Sho & Yushin Watanabe, Mr Jonathan Shearman, Mrs Ayako Mitsui-Browne, Ms Rika Wong, Ms Hiroko Okuyama, Ms Ritsuko Kojo and Yukimi Watanabe,



On 15 November, we once again observed the annual Ho-On-Ko service, commemorating Shinran

Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu.

For this year's service, we once again used a meeting room of Gordon Library, to fit enough attendants in accord with COVID Safe regulation.

HBMA members and supporters gathered for this service to show our appreciation for Shinran Shonin, who passed



Shinran Shonin (1173 - 1263)



Rev John (Top), Mr Akiyoshi (Bottom), paying respect to Amida Buddha by offering incense. (15/11/20)



away on 16 January 1263. Eleven people gathered to participate in this important annual observance.

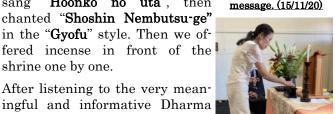
Ho-On-Ko literally means, 'A gathering to repay our debt of gratitude". Our tradition started when the third Hongwanji Monshu, Kakunyo Shonin, officiated the 33rd Memorial service for Shinran Shonin, and wrote "Ho-On-Ko Shiki (style)" in which he described how we, as followers of Jodo Shinshu, observe the founder's memorial service, - praising the virtue of Shinran Shonin and repaying the debt of gratitude to

Ever since that time, the memorial service of Shinran Shonin has been observed and the service has been called "Ho-On-Ko".

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For this special observance, we were very fortunate to welcome Reverend John Paraskevopoulos Canberra as a guest speaker. We also welcomed Ms Hiroko Okuyama, Ayako Mitsui-Browne, Mr Hisakazu Akiyoshi, Mr Jonathan Shearman, Ms Ritsuko Kojo, Ms Rika Wong. After my welcome message, we all sang "Hoonko no uta", then chanted "Shoshin Nembutsu-ge" in the "Gyofu" style. Then we offered incense in front of the shrine one by one.



Rev Paraskevopoulos

sharing the Dharma

Browne offers incense.

ingful and informative Dharma talk from Rev Paraskevopoulos (Please find his Dharma message on the Mrs Ayako Mitsuinext page.) I talked in Japanese

about "What is the Ho-On-Ko for oneself?".

We concluded service after we sang "Ondokusan". After the service, we took a commemorative group photo. Then, we had a delicious potluck "Otoki" lunch.

Thank you very much to the following people who shared the food: Mrs Okuyama, Mrs Mitsui-Browne, Mr Akiyoshi, Ms Kojo, Ms Wong, Mr Shearman, and Yukimi. "Arigato Gozaimashita" for all of your generous contribution.

It was also so nice to see children: Yushin & Sho. The presence of all of guests, members and children made our service a very special one!

Once again, without the attendance of each and



Sho paying his respect to Amida Buddha.

every person at our annual Ho-On -Ko Service for Shinran Shonin, it would not have been as successful as it was. Thank you and "Yokoso!"

> in Gassho, Rev Shigenobu Watanabe