



CHUNG TIAN TEMPLE OF FOGUANGSHAN BUDDHIST ORDER

佛光山中天寺

BUDDHA'S LIGHT INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND 國際佛光會昆士蘭協會

# BUDDHA BIRTH DAY FESTIVAL

## MEDIA RELEASE

Dated: May 3, 2018

### Buddha celebrates 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday in South Bank

Tomorrow the Buddha's Birth Day Festival returns for its 22nd celebration in the South Bank Parklands.

This three-day Iconic Event of Queensland and Signature Event of Brisbane commemorates Australia's diversity, providing visitors with a rich and memorable cultural experience.

Step inside the the Piazza and visitors are greeted by the glorious fragrance of fresh carnations and chrysanthemums while the delightful harmonies of chanting echo in the background. During the night the warmth of hundreds of candles glow in the dark while throughout the Parklands the red lanterns shine brightly. A visit to the Festival has the effect of leaving your mind relaxed, tranquil and at peace with the world.

Spread throughout the greater South Bank precinct and with all the 2,500 Red Chinese Lanterns switched over to LED's, the Festival is now the largest accredited Climate Friendly Event in the Southern Hemisphere.

200,000 visitors, over 1,000 volunteers, 400 performers and 180 events help make this family friendly Festival Queensland's biggest birthday celebration and the largest annual commemoration of Buddha's birthday in the world.

One of the major Festival events returning to the Piazza and the picturesque Lumbini Gardens is Bathing Buddha, where in a traditional ritual, participants symbolically wash away the inner impurities of life enabling mindfulness to assist in living a better life.

The famous Vegetarian International Food Markets with 40% more stalls this year continues to offer a wide range of delectable tastes from the four corners of the Asian continent and is open each evening till 9:00pm. Enhancing the culinary experience with a number of Vegelicious Cooking Displays is Celebrity Chef Tony Ching and not to be left out, children's chef Carmel Carmichael is providing a cooking classes for the kiddies.

With over 70,000 participants from 80 countries leaving a handprint for the Greater Humanity, No Boundaries returns allowing Festival visitors in a sign of cultural diversity to place their mark in history.

Capturing the spirit of Asia, the Dragon Boat Regatta is a featured event held on the Brisbane River while on the last evening of the Festival a spectacular Fireworks Display will light up Brisbane's skyline.

A range of cultural arts and activities including: Traditional Chinese Tea Ceremony; Calligraphy; Face Painting; Origami; and the famous Ju Percussion workshops is available over the 3-day Festival.

On Saturday morning a Baby Blessing is being held in the Piazza to ensure that a child begins life under the guidance and protection of Buddha's blessing, allowing the child to live a happy and fulfilled life in peace and harmony.

If seeking more than getting close up to traditional Chinese Lion Dancing, visitors can partake in a little reflective time with some Meditation or participate in one of the many informative discussions on Buddhism.

On Sunday morning a Cultural Harmony Parade will be held in the Parklands as a symbolic gesture to communities throughout the globe that we can unite to bring harmony to this world.

The Buddha Birth Day Festival is a family friendly event and free to attend.

Opening times: 9:00am - 9:00pm, Friday May 04 - Sunday May 06.

 [www.buddhabirthdayfestival.com.au](http://www.buddhabirthdayfestival.com.au)

 [www.facebook.com/buddhabirthdayfestival](https://www.facebook.com/buddhabirthdayfestival)

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South Bank  
Parklands