



BUDDHIST HEALTHCARE CHAPLAINCY TRUST



GUIDE TO CARING FOR BUDDHISTS, CARING FOR ALL

The following is a short guide to supporting Buddhist patients, Buddhist staff and caring for the welfare of all others during the COVID 19 crisis.

We offer some simple ways to provide appropriate religious care in each of the following situations:

- Simple readings for wellbeing
- Simple readings for end-of-life care and at the time of death
- Simple funerals

The readings in this guide are for use by healthcare chaplains of any faith or belief who are asked to minister to any Buddhist patients. They are also available for families and friends unable to be with their loved ones during these difficult times.

To all those suffering from or affected by COVID 19 virus



Please be comforted that all those affected by the COVID 19 crisis are in the thoughts, prayers, chanting and meditations of others, who may not be known to them but who care for them as fellow human beings.

Short Buddhist Prayer for Wellbeing, Prayer for Healing

Paying Respects to the Noble Triple Gem:

I pay respect to the Buddha (teacher), to the Dhamma (teaching), to the Sangha (practitioners of the Buddha's teachings)

*To avoid all evil – to cultivate good
to cleanse one's own mind – this is the teaching of the Buddha*

May you overcome all difficulties – may all illnesses subside and be eliminated

May you be protected - May you live long in good health and comfort!

*May there be every blessing! May heavenly beings protect you!
By the powers of the Buddhas, Dhammas and Sangha,
may you always be well!*

Short Buddhist End of Life Prayer

Salutations to the Noble Triple Gem: Buddha, Dharma and Sangha!!!

Buddha taught that all life is impermanent and that all those who are born must eventually pass from this life. However, everyone has within them the seeds of their past good actions, which have the power to bring a fortunate rebirth in the future.

We pray that through the power of this virtue, through the blessings of the holy beings, and through the force of our heartfelt prayers, you will experience great good fortune and everlasting peace and happiness. May all beings without exception be released from suffering and find true happiness!

May you go freely. May you find peace.

**Short Form of Buddhist Funeral Service
(this can be offered online)**

This form may be used as an active service or, in the absence of a chaplain, by the person supervising the burial.

In the presence of the Body, the officiant says:

(with a bow as a mark of respect)

Homage to the Buddha, All Enlightened One.

Homage to the Dharma, the teaching He expounded so well.

Homage to the Sangha, four-fold community of monks, nuns and male and female lay practitioners.

We are here to celebrate together the life of <name> and to mark their passage, each of us remembering them in our own unique way.

*Whatever comes into being out of causes and conditions is sure to have its end,
its nature is to arise and pass away.*

*When what was born goes back to the unarisen
then there is calm and peace.*

We return this body which we once knew as <name> to the Earth, its true owner. As the elements break up, may the departed one find release from the turmoil of life suffering into the peace of deathlessness.

*Those who cross to the further shore are few,
Most people only run up and down the bank
Difficult though it be to escape,
Those who practice diligently according to the Truth
Will surely go beyond Death's realm.*

We wish you well on your journey.

[Bow to conclude]

GUIDE TO CARING FOR BUDDHISTS, CARING FOR ALL

This Guide is offered as a gift at the time when events are at their most challenging for the NHS as the impact of the coronavirus reaches its peak.

It celebrates the actions of all those helping to save lives and it offers compassion and kindness to all those suffering and dying.

All readings are written as simply as possible, given the difficult conditions in which frontline work is necessarily being carried out in this time of crisis.

The readings offered as prayers for wellbeing or for end-of-life care may be read to the patient as many times as may be possible.

Acknowledgement is made of the wide diversity of Buddhist traditions and approaches; that in less difficult times many more and varied readings, prayers and further services are available in recognition of the very different expressions of Buddhism in the UK.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the words used here are as close as possible to those of the Buddha.

Buddhist Healthcare Chaplains are working in a number of hospitals and hospices across the UK. They are available to provide religious care and can minister in any of the services described in this guide, including online.

Buddhist Healthcare Chaplains can be contacted through *Buddhist Healthcare Chaplaincy Trust* keith@eskola.co.uk or 07931 532006.

Buddhist Healthcare Chaplaincy Trust has worked with the NHS since 2005 as the official group within Buddhism responsible for standards in Buddhist Healthcare Chaplaincy.

Out thanks are extended for contributions from the *Buddhist Chaplaincy Support Group* and the *Buddhist Society* to the production of this gift. Produced in consultation with GOV.UK 'Guidance for the care of the deceased with suspected and confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) – published 31/03/2020.

May the merit of this gift be of benefit to all sentient beings.

United Kingdom, April 2020