

Forest Sangha Calendar
2017 ❁ 2560

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Cover: Buddha *rūpa* from Vimutti Forest Monastery, Auckland NZ
Background image by Jay Carroll

Monthly Dhamma quotes are adapted from transcribed and translated teachings contained in
The Collected Teachings of Ajahn Chah, available for download at the links below.

e-book formats: www.fsbooks.org/ajahn-chah-teachings

audiobook format: www.fsaudio.org/ajahn-chah-teachings

LUNAR OBSERVANCE DAYS ● ◐ ○ ◑

These days are regularly devoted to quiet reflection at the monastery.
The dates for the lunar calendar are determined by traditional methods of calculation
and are not always on the same day as the astronomical occurrences.

THE MAJOR FULL MOON DAYS FOR 2017 / 2560

Māgha Pūjā · 11 February ('Sangha Day')

Commemorates the spontaneous gathering of 1250 arahants to whom
the Buddha gave an exhortation on the basis of the Discipline (*Ovāda Pāṭimokkha*).

Vesākha Pūjā · 10 May ('Buddha Day')

Commemorates the birth, enlightenment and passing away of the Buddha.

Āsālhā Pūjā · 8 July ('Dhamma Day')

Commemorates the Buddha's first discourse, given to the five *samaṇas* in the Deer Park at
Sarnath, near Varanasi. The traditional Rainy-Season Retreat (*Vassa*) begins on the next day.

Pavāraṇā Day · 5 October

This marks the end of the three-month *Vassa* retreat.

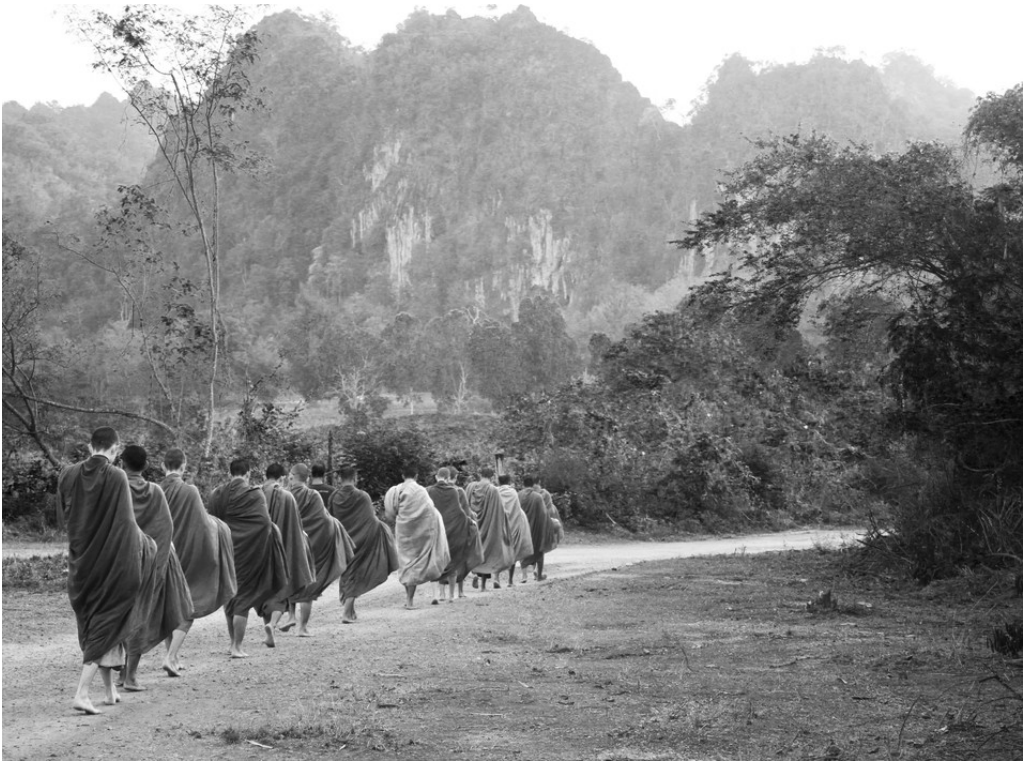
During the following month the extended community of monastery supporters
traditionally offer robe material as part of a *Kaṭhina*-season alms-giving ceremony.

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Practice doesn't depend on whether you are sitting or walking.
 Rather it requires a continuous awareness of the flow of consciousness and feelings.
 Whatever is happening, compose yourself and always be aware of that flow.

January

2017/2560

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5 	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 	13	14	15
16 [*]	17	18	19	20 	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 	28	29
30	31					

* Jan 16: Ajahn Chah Memorial Day





Jan 12  15 days Hemanta 4/8
 Jan 27  15 days Hemanta 5/8





We must use Dhamma to find happiness.
 When our mind is good and at ease then there's a smile in our heart —
 but when we cling, the goodness disappears.

February

2017/2560

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4 	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 * 	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 
20	21	22	23	24	25 	26
27	28					

* Feb 11: Māgha Pūjā





Feb 11  15 days Hemanta 6/8
 Feb 25  14 days Hemanta 7/8





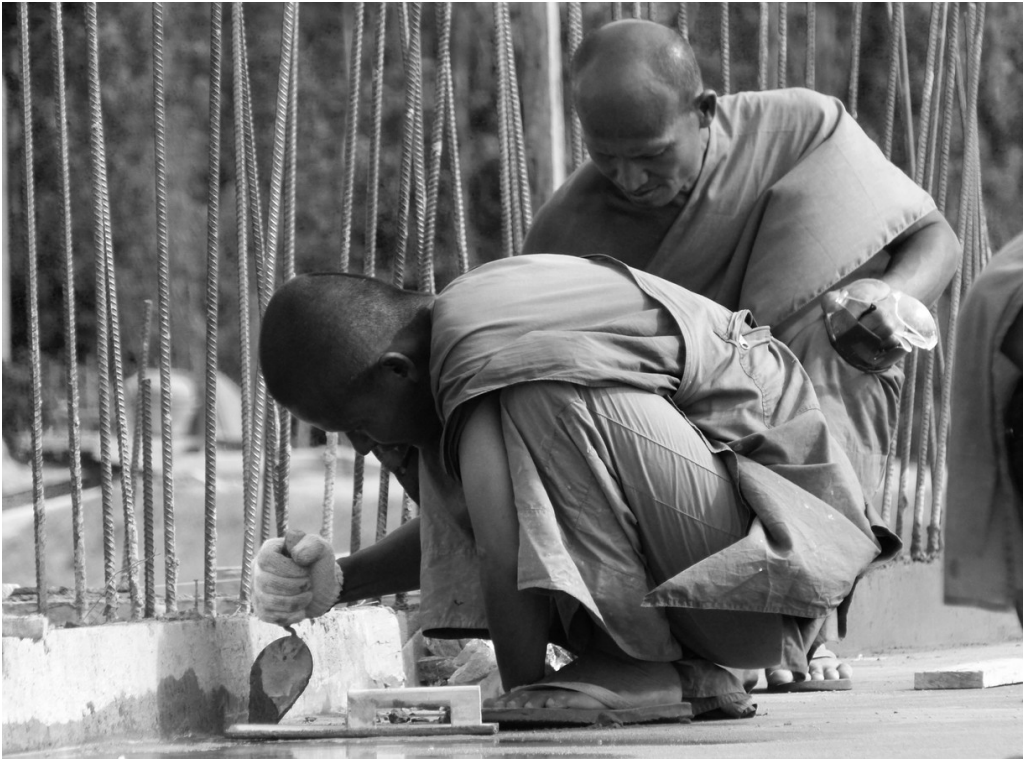
Don't be too concerned about results or quick progress.
 A child first learns to crawl, then to walk, then run —
 until eventually he or she is fully grown.

March

2017/2560

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5 
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 	21	22	23	24	25	26
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Mar 12  15 days Hemanta 8/8
 Mar 27  15 days Gimhāna 1/8





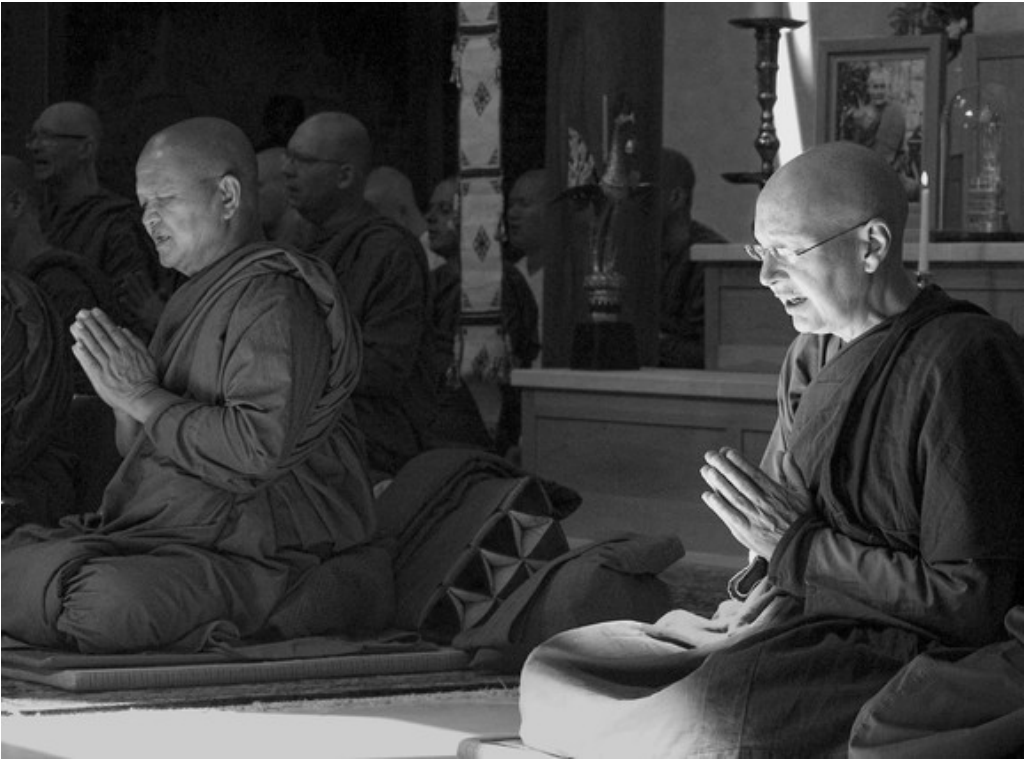
Take every opportunity to put effort into Dhamma practice. Don't be concerned whether it feels peaceful or not. The priority is to set the wheels in motion. If you've done the work, there's no need to worry about results.

April

2017/2560

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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17	18	19 	20	21	22	23
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Apr 11  15 days Gimhāna 2/8
 Apr 25  14 days Gimhāna 3/8





The blessings of walking the path of the Buddha are purity, radiance and peace.
 Walking this path is something we each must do individually:
 the path of integrity, concentration and wisdom.

May

2017/2560

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3 	4	5	6	7
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15	16	17	18 	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 	26	27	28
29	30	31				

* May 10: Vesākha Pūjā

May 10  15 days Gimhāna 4/8
 May 25  15 days Gimhāna 5/8



Enlightenment can happen whether sitting, standing, walking or lying down. Some people think a lot, and when they sit in meditation they're not peaceful; yet, through contemplating happiness and suffering, they can still come to know truth.

June

2017/2560

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17*	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

* Jun 17: Ajahn Chah's Birthday






Jun 9 ○ 15 days Gimhāna 6/8
 Jun 23 ● 14 days Gimhāna 7/8





If we realize enlightenment in this lifetime, that's fine.
 If we have to wait until our next life, that's also alright.
 What matters is having unfaltering conviction in the Dhamma.

July

2017/2560

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1 	2
3	4	5	6	7	8* 	9 [†]
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 						

* Jul 8: Āsālhā Pūjā
 † Jul 9: Vassa begins





Jul 8  15 days Gimhāna 8/8
 Jul 23  15 days Vassāna 1/8





Generosity cleanses us of selfishness;
 it brings forth a heart of caring for all living beings — without exception.
 If we can be free of just this one thing — selfishness — then we will be like the Buddha.

August

2017/2560

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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Aug 7  15 days Vassāna 2/8
 Aug 21  14 days Vassāna 3/8





What is enlightenment about anyway? It's about non-grasping.
 The cultivation of generosity, precepts and loving-kindness are all for
 the sake of freeing us from defilements; for emptying us of self and other.

September

2017/2560

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Sep 5  15 days Vassāna 4/8
 Sep 20  15 days Vassāna 5/8



The Buddha wasn't concerned for himself; he sought the good of all.
 If we have Dhamma arising in our hearts, our virtuous deeds,
 generosity, and meditation will lead to liberation.

October

2017/2560

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23	24	25	26	27 ●	28	29
30	31					

* Oct 5: Pavāraṇā

Oct 5 ○ 15 days Vassāna 6/8
 Oct 19 ● 14 days Vassāna 7/8



It's as if the Buddha had placed us at the beginning of the path; his job is now done.
Whether we walk along it or not is up to us.

November

2017/2560

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Nov 3 15 days Vassāna 8/8
Nov 18 15 days Hemanta 1/8





There is a Path, but it can be a long time before you see a clear signpost.
 As for myself, the journey definitely takes place in the heart.

December

2017/2560

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Dec 3  15 days Hemanta 2/8
 Dec 17  14 days Hemanta 3/8

2017 / 2560

January

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February

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March

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April

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May

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June

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July

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August

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September

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October

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November

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20	21	22	23	24	25	☾
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December

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12	13	14	15	16	●	18	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
26	27	28	29	30	31	☾	

¹ Jan 16: Ajahn Chah Memorial Day

² Feb 11: Māgha Pūjā

³ May 10: Vesākha Pūjā

⁴ Jun 17: Ajahn Chah's Birthday

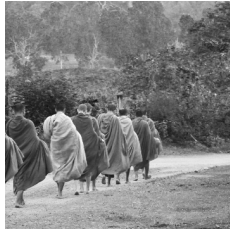
⁵ Jul 8: Āsāḷhā Pūjā

⁶ Jul 9: Vassa begins

⁷ Oct 5: Pavāraṇā

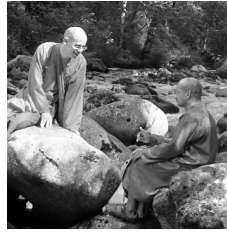
January

Wat Pah Nanachat Tudong – 2015,
Khao Laem National Park and
Tung Yai Naresuan Wildlife Reserve,
Kanchanaburi, Thailand.



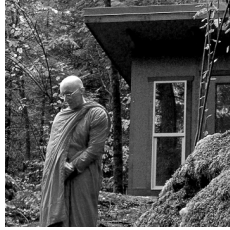
February

Ajahn Ahimsako (left) and
Ajahn Preechar (right),
nr. Pacific Hermitage, USA



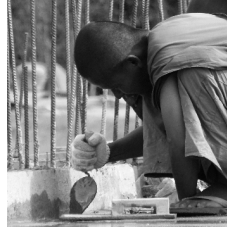
March

Pacific Hermitage, USA
(photo: Jay Carroll)



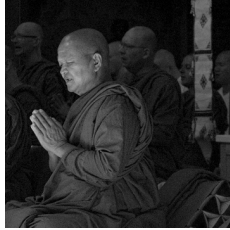
April

Ajahn Piya and Ajahn Phanomtien
temple building,
Wat Pah Nong Wai,
Bahn Kog Jahn, Srisaket,
NE Thailand



May

Luang Por Anek (left),
and Ajahn Candasiṛī (right),
Amaravati Monastery, UK



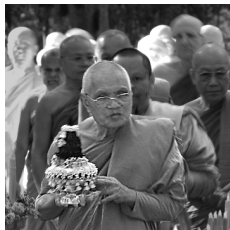
June

Carving *sīma* marker,
Wat Pah Nanachat,
Tan Ajahn Anek (left),
Ajahn Kevali, abbot WPN, (right)



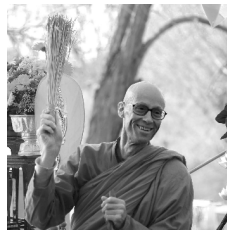
July

Luang Por Liem
leading a procession
at Wat Nong Pah Pong



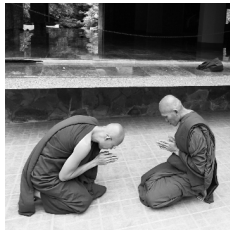
August

Ajahn Chandapālo,
Santacittarāma Monastery, Italy
(photo: Marco Iacobucci)



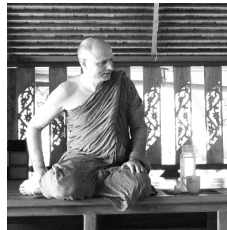
September

Bhikkhus performing 'Confession'
at Wat Nong Pah Pong



October

Wat Pah Boon Lorm,
Ajahns Dhīrapañño and Jotimanto
paying respects to Ajahn Jayasāro



November

Luang Por Viradhammo
sweeping, Tisarana Monastery,
Ontario, Canada



December

Luang Por Liem sweeping
the Ajahn Chah memorial *stupa*,
Wat Nong Pah Pong.



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Western disciples of Ajahn Chah

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