



# The New Saiva Neri

The Newsletter of the Melbourne Vinayagar Hindu Sangam  
1294 Mountain Highway The Basin, VIC 3154 T: 03 9762 1835  
W: [www.melbournevinayagar.org.au](http://www.melbournevinayagar.org.au) E: [admin@melbournevinayagar.org.au](mailto:admin@melbournevinayagar.org.au)



**Sarasvati Namastubhyam  
Varade Kaamarubini  
Vidhyaarambham Karishyami  
Siddhir Bhavatu Me Sada**

*Saraswati Sloka is a Hindu prayer chanted before beginning of a class or at the beginning of one's studies so that all learning may result in knowledge. It is addressed to the Goddess Sarasvati who symbolises all forms of knowledge, including the knowledge of the performing arts.*

## A note from the Editorial Team

Welcome to the fourth issue of **The New Saiva Neri**.

For the first time in the Temple's history as part of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the temple, a 5-day 1,008 Kalashabhishegam for Avani Sathurthi celebrations took place between 9th September and 13th in September, with a 1008 Kalasabhishegam. This was a monumental success, with over 750 participants and their families and it was a major event for the Temple. The event was held to celebrate the Temple's 25th anniversary and annathanam was organised for all 5 days of the pooja. Priests from interstate and India had been invited for this event.

Major events coming up in the next few months for the Temple include Puratasi Sani, Navarathri, Gowri Viratham, Deepavali, Kantha Sashti and Vinayagar Kathai. We look forward to your participation and support for these functions.

As always, we look forward to hearing from you. Please get in touch with us if you would like to contribute or share stories, or provide feedback. You can send an email to [admin@melbournevinayagar.org.au](mailto:admin@melbournevinayagar.org.au).

Devotees can also stay in touch with Temple events and updates via the Facebook page where you can get access programme details of major events. [Click here to like the Facebook page](#).

Yours in service of Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar,  
The Editorial Team

## PAST EVENTS

### Avani Sathurthi - 1,008 Sahasra Kalasabhishegam

The 1,008 Kalasabhishegam took place from Sunday, 9 September to Thursday, 13 September to mark the Temple's 25th anniversary (Silver Jubilee Celebrations). This event drew over 750 participants and more than 1500 people over the course of 5 days. On Avani Sathurthi day, despite it being a week day, there were over 800 people in the Temple in the morning. A similar number turned up at night too.

During the 5-day period, the Homams had different invocations for every day. One day for Ganesha, the next for Sivan and the third for Parvathi. The Sahastra Naamam was read three times every morning and evening. Our second priest Nithiyanantham Kurukkal was the chief priest during these five days as Gowrieswara Kurukkal was indisposed. Priests from other states of Australia and India also came down for the event. Annathanam was provided both in the morning and evening. The evening Annathanam was brunch style and had many different varieties of food.

Nithiyanantham Kurukkal gave excellent explanations around the reasons for the Abhishegam, the meaning of a Kalasam and its significance. This was well received by those attending.

Nithiyanantham Kurukkal explained the kalasam itself represents the body. The water in the kalasam represents the womb which is where life comes from. Without water, there is no life at all. The thread on the kalasam represents the veins. The cloth tied around the kalasam represents skin and the coconut is the head and the mango leaves, the hair. Therefore, a kalasam can also be seen as symbolically representing creation.

Chanting 1,008 times is believed to invoke Ganesha into these Kalasams. And similar to what is done in a Kumbabhshiegam, this water is then poured onto the Moolasthan Vinayagar.

Each sponsor received a Kalasam which had a Ganesha and Mahalakshmi on opposite sides as well as the Sanskrit OM, together with the markings to indicate the Silver Jubilee celebrations. This Kalsam will indeed be a worthwhile souvenir for all those who could not attend the function.



**The yaaga saalai built for the Kalasabhishegam.**



**Devotees during the Kalasabhishegam (L). Ladies reciting Lalitha Sahasranamam on one of the days. (R)**





The priests who attended the event along with chief priest for the Kalasabhishegam, Nithiyanantham Kurukkal (3rd R).



Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar on Avani Sathurthi day.





Perambulation of Vinayagar on Avani Sathurthi day.

## Luxmi Pooja

This year's Luxmi pooja took place on Friday, 24 August and more than 75 ladies participated in the pooja. The event was so well attended, that we had to make three rows for the participants as opposed to the usual two. In addition, what made this year exceptional was that we had Mr Ganapathy translate into English each step of the way and provide the meaning and significance of what was being invoked.

The added difference this year was that the mantras were also said in Tamil, which allowed many devotees to do the pooja with feeling, as they understood the meaning of the words.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Puratasi Sani - Saturday, 22 September to Saturday, 13 October 2018

As usual, the Temple will provide Annathanam to all devotees every Saturday during these 4 Saturdays. Devotees can come to the Temple to burn the sesame lamp as well.

### Navarathri - Wednesday, 10 October to Friday, 19 October 2018

Navarathri is a 9-day event worshipping the nine forms of Goddess Shakti.



The first three days are for the worship of Goddess Shakti. The middle three days are for Goddess Luxmi. The final three days of Navarathri and Vijayadashami are set apart for the worship of Goddess Saraswati.

There will be special pooja for all of the 10 days. Also, the Temple has organised a musical programme involving music and dance schools of Melbourne during this period. The canteen will be open all nights during this period.

Date	Day	Time	Programme	Pooja & Performance	Sponsor
10/10/18	Wed		<b>First Day</b>		
		5.30 pm	6.15 pm Sangalpam, Kalasa Pooja	Navarathiri (Durga Pooja) - Siva Pooja Bavanam	Mr Narayanasamy
		6.15 pm	6.45 pm Abirami Ambal Abishekam		
		6.45 pm	7.00 pm Kumba Sthabhanam		
		7.00 pm	7.30 pm Daily Pooja-Vinayagar		
		7.30 pm	8.00 pm Vasantha Mandapa Pooja		
		8.00 pm	8.25 pm <b>Musical Programme</b>	Pichumani School of Carnatic Music	Iyer Brothers (Ramnath and Gopinath)
		8.30 pm	8.55 pm <b>Musical Programme</b>	Kalakruthi School	Shoba Sekhar
11/10/18	Thu		<b>Second Day</b>		
		6.15 pm	7.00 pm Abirami Ambal Abishekam	Navarathiri (Durga Pooja) - Meenatchi	Mr Sachin Selvarajah, Mr Ajit Nadarajah, Mr Thananjayan & Dr Varna Amarasinghe
		7.00 pm	7.30 pm Daily Pooja - Vinayagar		
		7.30 pm	8.00 pm Vasantha Mandapa Pooja		
		8.00 pm	8.25 pm <b>Musical Programme</b>	Manikya Veena Music Group	Achuta Ramani Bommakanti
		8.30 pm	8.55 pm <b>Musical Programme</b>	Natyalayaa School of Indian Classical Dance	Ushanthini Pathmanathan
12/10/18	FRI		<b>Third Day (Sathurthi)</b>		
		6.15 pm	7.00 pm Vinayagar Abhishekam	Puratasi Sathurthi	Dr P Navaratnarajah & Mr Saiesan
		7.00 pm	7.30 pm Abirami Ambal Abishekam	Navarathiri (Durga Pooja) - Durga Devi Alangaram	Ms Chandra Paramanathan
		7.30 pm	8.00 pm Daily Pooja - Vinayagar		
		8.00 pm	8.25 pm Vasanthamandapa Pooja		
		8.30 pm	8.55 pm Thiruvilla	No Musical Programme	
13/10/18	Sat		<b>Fourth Day</b>		
		6.15 pm	7.00 pm Abirami Ambal Abishekam	Navarathiri (Lakshmi Pooja) - Maha Lakshmi	Mr K Thuraisingam
		7.00 pm	7.30 pm Daily Pooja - Vinayagar		
		7.30 pm	8.00 pm Vasantha Mandapa Pooja		
		8.00 pm	8.25 pm <b>Musical Programme</b>	Academy of Indian Music Aust Inc	Ravi M RavichandhiraNarmatha Ravichandhira
		8.30 pm	8.55 pm <b>Musical Programme</b>	Sruthi-laya Kendra Aust Inc and Bharatha Choodan	Ravi M RavichandhiraNarmatha Ravichandhira
14/10/18	Sun		<b>Fifth Day</b>		
		6.15 pm	7.00 pm Abirami Ambal Abishekam	Navarathiri (Lakshmi Pooja) - Dhanalakshmi	Mr Nandakumar and Mr Shanmuganathakumar
		7.00 pm	7.30 pm Daily Pooja - Vinayagar		
		7.30 pm	8.00 pm Vasantha Mandapa Pooja		
		8.00 pm	8.55 pm Vilaku poojai		
				No Musical Programme	For all female students only - No charge



Date	Day	Time	Programme	Pooja & Performance	Sponsor
15/10/18	Mon	<b>Sixth Day</b>		Navarathiri (Lakshmi Pooja) - Gaja Lakshmi	Mr Joy Maheswaran, Ms Yogarani Jeyakumar, Ms Wicknarajah & Ms Kanageswary
		6.15 pm	7.00 pm		
		7.00 pm	7.30 pm		
		7.30 pm	8.00 pm		
		8.00 pm	8.25 pm		
		8.30 pm	8.55 pm	Musical Programme	Rama Rao
				Keerthana Music School	Uthra Vijayaraghavan
16/10/18	Tue	<b>Seventh Day</b>		Navarathiri - Saraswathy	Mr Pushparajah & Mr Ramesh Rajan, Dr Varuna Amerasinghe, Ms Mahadevan Shanti
		6.00 pm	6.30 pm		
		6.30 pm	7.00 pm		
		7.00 pm	7.30 pm		
		7.30 pm	8.00 pm		
		8.00 pm	8.30 pm	Sagala Kala Valli Malai	
		8.30 pm	8.55 pm	Musical Programme	Sumathy Sathiyamoorthy
17/10/18	Wed	<b>Eighth Day</b>		Navarathiri (Saraswathy Pooja) - Veena Saraswathy	Mr Ravindren
		6.15 pm	7.00 pm		
		7.00 pm	7.30 pm		
		7.30 pm	8.00 pm		
		8.00 pm	8.30 pm		
		8.30 pm	8.55 pm	Musical Programme	Sivaganga Sahathevan
18/10/18	Thu	<b>Ninth day</b>		Navarathiri (Saraswathy Pooja) - Maha Saraswathy	Mr Shan Pillai
		5.30 pm	6.30 pm		
		6.30 pm	7.00 pm		
		7.00 pm	7.30 pm		
		7.30 pm	8.00 pm		
		8.00 pm	9.00 pm	Sagala Kala Valli Malai	
19/10/18	Fri	<b>Tenth day</b>		Navarathiri (Vijayathasami) - Mahishasuramarthini	Mr Dhanapalan
		9.00am	12.00 noon		
		5.30 pm	6.00 pm		
		6.00 pm	6.30 pm		
		6.30 pm	7.15 pm		
		7.15 pm	7.45 pm	Priyachitha Abishegam	
		7.45 pm	8.15 pm	Vasantham Mandapa Pooja	
		8.15 pm	8.45 pm	Gowri Viratham 1st Day	Temple Sponsored event

## Other events:

- **Gowri Viritham - Friday, 19 October to Wednesday, 7 November 2018**
- **Maha Ganapathy Homam - Sunday, 28 October 2018**

The Maha Ganapathy Homam will be performed in several baths in the Temple on Sunday, 28 October from 9am to 5pm. Devotees can register their names to participate in this Maha Homam by registering at the Temple office. Annathanam will be served to devotees after the final Homam.

- **Deepavali - Tuesday, 6 November 2018**
- **Kantha Sashti - Thursday, 8 November to Tuesday, 13 November 2018**
- **Vinayagar Kathai - Saturday, 24 November to Thursday, 13 December 2018**

## NOTICES

- The Temple canteen is open on Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, for dinner between 6.30 pm and 9.00 pm. and for lunch on weekends between 11.30 am and 2.00 pm. The Brunch is on every 1st Sunday and 3rd Sunday of the month. The revised brunch prices are: \$15 for adults and \$8 for children. For canteen opening hours, [please see the Temple website](#).
- Nateswaram classes are currently being held in the Temple. This is a unique opportunity for anyone in Melbourne to learn such an art form. No other institution is teaching this artform. The classes are conducted by Dr Srinivasan who holds a PhD in Nateswaram. For more information, please contact the Temple office on 03 9762 1835.
- Those interested in requiring the services of the resident Musicians Dr K Srinivasan (Nateswaram) and Mr AB Ramadoss (Thavil) can contact the Temple office on 03 9762 1835.
- For upcoming poojas, please refer to our Temple calendar. For the full list of Temple services, [please see the Temple website](#).

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH



### சகலகலாவல்லி மாலை

சொற்கும் பொருட்கும் உயிராம் மெய்ஞ்ஞானத்தின் தோற்றம் என்ன  
நிற்கின்ற நின்னை நினைப்பவர் யார் நிலம்தோய் புழைக்கை  
நற்குஞ்சரத்தின் பிடியோடு அரசன்னம் நாண நடை  
கற்கும் பதாம்புயத்தாயே சகலகலாவல்லியே

சொற்களுக்கும், அவற்றின் பொருட்களுக்கும், உயிராக உள்ளுரைப் பொருளாக  
இருக்கும் மெய்யான ஞானவடிவாக விளங்குகின்ற நின்னை நினைப்பவர்  
என்னையன்றி வேறு யார்?  
நிலத்தில் தோயும்படி இருக்கும் நீண்ட தும்பிக்கையுடைய சிறந்த  
பெண்யானையும், பறவைகளிலேயே அழகில் சிறந்த அரச அன்னப் பறவையும்  
வெட்கும் படியான நடையுடைய திருவடித் தாமரைகளை உடையவளே!  
கலைவாணியே!