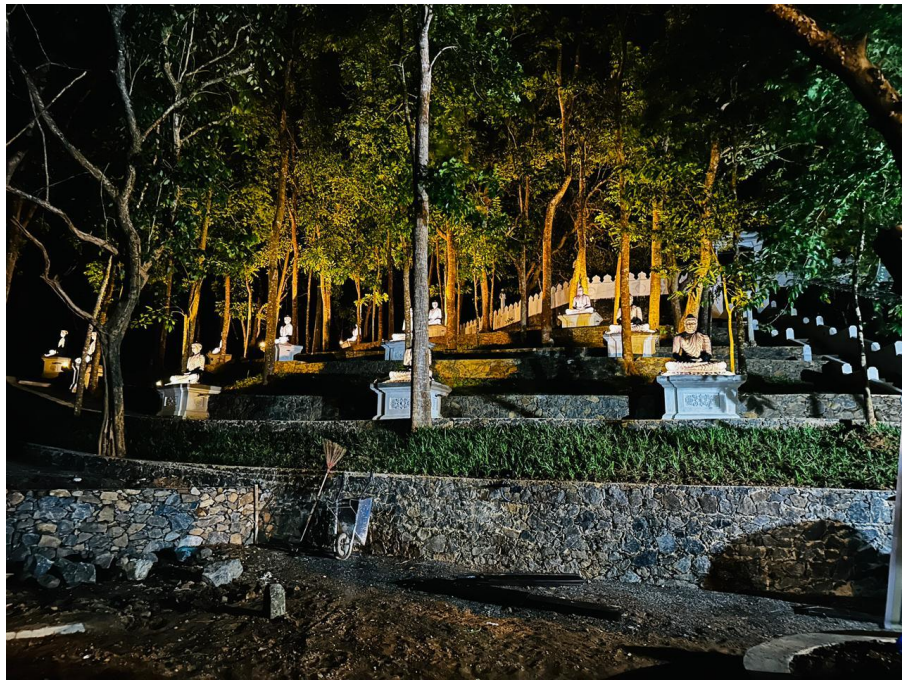


Opening of the Borobudur Vihara Complex (phase 1) in line with the National Vesak Festival



In creating this vihara complex we look closely at a fascinating almost mystical connection between the ancient Indonesian heritage and our own temple.

Borobudur is located in Java, Indonesia. Borobudur is the world's largest Buddhist temple-built in the 9th century. The name Borobudur is widely believed to originate from Sanskrit translating roughly to the **“The viharaya on top of the hill or the mountain temple”**.

Remarkably our own temple's name “Girikandararamaya” (Giri – Mountain/Hill, kandara- caves, Aramaya – Monastery) carries the exact same meaning” The temple on the mountain”. This beautiful alignment though a coincidence added a sense of divine purpose and deep spiritual wonder to the entire project bridging global Buddhist heritage with our local village.

May 23rd: The arrival of the sacred Buddha Statues.

Instead of grand festival on this day a simple yet deeply devotional vehicle procession was organized to escort the newly sculpted Buddha statues to the temple premises.

The local villagers along with our children and their parents enthusiastically gathered and volunteered to bring the sacred statues. Upon arrival at the temple via the procession the statues were reverently placed on their designated seats setting the spiritual foundation for the upcoming ceremonies.

May 26th: This was the significant day of the festival marked by the formal unveiling of the Borobudur Buddha Statues. First and foremost, the formal unveiling of the sacred Buddha statues was reverently performed by the invited venerable monks who graced occasion.

Distinguished government guests also in attendance. Following the sacred unveiling by the maha sangha the official lighting of the illuminations took place under the presence of these dignitaries before the main rituals commenced.

The regional residents and temple donors (devotees) who supported the construction gathered to offer the historic first flower offering and the first Gilanpasa offering to the Borobudur statues.

Alongside the new complex traditional and separate special offerings were concurrently conducted at the main stupa the sacred Bodhi tree and the image house.

The Vesak religious program at our temple conducted with profound spiritual success leaving a lasting impact on the entire community. The establishment and inauguration of the Borobudur Vihara Complex stand as a historic milestone for our temple beautifully bridging global Buddhist heritage with our local identity.





- Tesheema Chammi -