

About a Temple

The Six abodes of Lord Murugan are in Tamil Nadu in India. The six most sacred abodes, as mentioned in the Tamil Sangam literatures are Palani, Thiruthani, Swamimalai, Pazhamudircholai, Thiruparankundram, And Thiruchendur.

Thiruparankundram Murugan temple or Subramanya Swamy temple is

one of the six abodes of Lord Murugan located at Thiruparankundram, 8 kms from the city of Madurai in Tamil Nadu, India. The temple is built in rock-cut architecture and believed to have been built by the Pandyas during the 6th century. According to the legend it is where Murugan slayed the demon Surapadman and married Deivayanai, the divine daughter of the king of heaven, Indra, and he is said to have worshipped Shiva here as Parangirinathar.

As per Hindu legend, Surapadma, a demon king, once obtained boons from Shiva on account of severe penance. He started ruling the 1008 worlds on account of the power attained. He married Padumakomalai and had several sons. Viramkendiram became his capital, a city created in the seas and he started troubling the Devas. He imprisoned Indra (the king of celestial deities) and desired his wife Indrani. Indra sought the help of Muruga. Muruga sent his messenger Viravakutevar to the demon, but he was unmoved. A severe battle was fought in Thiruparamkundram where Muruga killed all the sons of the demon except Iraniyan. Surapadman hid under the sea in Thiruchendur where Muruga slayed & split him into two pieces, which went on to become the divine vehicles, peacock and rooster. The day when Muruga slayed Surapadma is celebrated as Skanda Sashti festival in all the Murugan temples. Indra, the king of Devas was impressed and he married Deivayanai, his divine daughter to Muruga at Thiruparamkundram. Muruga is believed to have worshipped Shiva here as Parangirinathar.



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[Thiruparankundram_3879.aspx?format=Print](http://www.thiruparankundram_3879.aspx?format=Print)

to Muruga at Thiruparamkundram. Muruga is believed to have worshipped Shiva here as Parangirinathar.

References

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thiruparankundram_Murugan_temple

<http://www.thiruparankundrammurugantemple.tnhrce.in/>

Tax credits for donations

You can claim 33.33 cents for every dollar you donated to charities or similar organisations.

You can only claim on donations that added up to the same amount or less than your taxable income during the tax year.

Who can claim

You can claim donation tax credits if you:

- are claiming as an individual and not on behalf of a trust, partnership or company
- were a New Zealand tax resident at any time during the tax year (1 April to 31 March).

What you can claim for

- You can claim tax credits for donations of \$5 or more when the donation:
- was to an approved organization
- did not provide any direct benefit to you or your family.

What needs to be on your receipt

You need a receipt for every donation you want to claim for. The receipt needs to:

- be in your name or your spouse or partner's name
- show the amount and date of the donation
- clearly state that it's for a donation
- be signed by an authorised person
- be on the organisation's letterhead or show its name and official stamp
- show the organisation's IRD number and/or charities services number
- show the word 'copy' or 'replacement' if it's a replacement receipt.

If you want to claim for a donation of \$5 or more made over the phone you need a receipt from the approved organisation. A copy of your phone bill is not a receipt.



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A half-yearly Newsletter



Editorial

We are happy to reach out to you through this Newsletter and spread our cultural & traditional values to the younger & next generation New Zealand. We also seek your active participation in the temple activities and contributions towards realizing the dream of building the temple in Christchurch.

We encourage you to contribute to this Newsletter by sending short writeups on Hindu Philosophy, events, temple, pilgrimage or anything on Hinduism that will enlighten others. You can write to us at admin@sgtc.org.nz

Sri Ganesha Temple Christchurch Newsletter

Vakratunda Mahakaya Surya Koti Sama Prabha
Nirvighnam Kuru Me Deva Sarva Karyesu Sarvada.

Hari OM!! We wish everyone a happy & prosperous New year!!

We have reached a milestone in our development as a “temple” after nearly two years of operations. We continually receive accolades from various groups on how well our activities are carried out in exemplary fashions. We have indeed done wonders with what little we have had.

We have been the first to have chariot processions in our events; something that had never been done before in South Island. Please view of various social media channels at what we have accomplished along the way. Along with divine intervention and help, much of the success is attributed to a small group of devotees who have been ardently sacrificing their free time and money to improve in all aspects of religious and cultural activities. Due to the lack of finance, we have largely been on a holding pattern in our further development. To ensure the possibility of our continued existence, we need your financial donations and/or your particular areas of expertise in IT and web development and fund raising activities and other relevant areas.

We clearly need the temple to be sustained for years to come and pass our culture and traditions to subsequent generations. For those who have been the essence of our development thus far, we salute you and welcome others for the benefit of our future.

Please approach any of us to discuss anything that you deem pertinent.

Om Ganapathiya Namaha!

The Management Team

We are crowdsourcing to fund the building of the temple and build unity in diversity. The bulk of the money will be used to purchase a permanent place for worship and social events in aid of charity. So please donate generously and spread the message as widely as possible.

<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/ganesha> or <https://www.sgtc.org.nz/donate>

Sri Ganesha Trust (Christchurch) Trustees

Ross Siva Kumaran
K. Chella
Sathya Murali
Kalai Sathiyathan
Naash Kanan



Find more information @ www.ird.govt.nz/donations

www.facebook.com/sriganeshatemplechristchurch/

Contact Ross Siva Kumaran on 021868621 to join the temple WhatsApp group to get important updates and messages.

Why do we not touch papers, books and people with the feet?

To Hindus, Knowledge is sacred and divine. So it must be given respect at all times. Nowadays we separate subjects as sacred and secular. But in ancient India every subject – academic or spiritual – was considered divine and taught by the guru in the *gurukula*.

The custom of not stepping on educational tools is a frequent reminder of the high position accorded to knowledge in Indian culture. From an early age, this wisdom fosters in us a deep reverence for books and education. This is also the reason why we worship books, vehicles and instruments once a year on Saraswathi Pooja or Ayudha Pooja day, dedicated to the Goddess of Learning. In fact, each day before starting our studies, we pray:

***Saraswati namasthubhyam
Varade kaama roopini
Vidyaarambham karishyaami
Sidhirbhavatu me sadaa***

O Goddess Saraswati, the giver of Boons and fulfiller of wishes, I prostrate to You before starting my studies.
May you always fulfill me?



We welcome Donors – Sponsorship for monthly poojas, one -time donations. *Monthly and fortnightly payment options available.

Donations paid can be claimed as a Tax Credit Claim with the IRD (IR526)
Name of organization:
Sri Ganesha Trust (Christchurch)
Registered Charity: NZ CC55805
Registration Number: 2703051
Bank name: Westpac
Account number: 03-1707-0132597-000

If you want to contribute to the building of the temple then please send your donations to

Building Fund Account: 03-1707-0132597-017

Seeing God Everywhere

There once lived a woman, who prayed to God every day and wanted to meet Him personally. She thought continuously about God's vision.

One day, before going to bed, she remembered Him intensely. That night, God appeared in her dream and promised to visit her the next day. When she woke up the next morning, she was very happy and at once began preparations to welcome Him. She cleaned her house and arranged all the furniture to make the house look festive. Then she started preparing delicious food for God. While she was preparing sweets, someone knocked at the door. She rushed to open the door. She saw a salesman, trying to sell some magazines.

She was quite irritated and almost shouted, "Please do not disturb me today. I am waiting for an important visitor, so keep my doorway clear. Do not waste my time." She turned the salesperson away and almost slammed the door.

The woman cleaned the kitchen after preparing the sweets and sat in the drawing room waiting for God. After some time, someone knocked at the door. She rushed to the door again, expecting to see God. She was disappointed to see a neighbouring girl, who had come to play with her daughter as usual.

She said to the girl angrily, "I am sorry, but please don't disturb us today, as we are expecting some important guest. You can come back tomorrow to play with my daughter." She closed the door without waiting for the girl's reply and returned to the drawing room, waiting for God to show up. Hours passed by and day turned into night. There was no sign of God! She was disheartened and wondered why God did not keep his promise.

Finally, she fell asleep crying, while thinking about Him. God again appeared in her dream and said, "My dear, I visited you twice today and you turned me away." She was surprised and said, "It cannot be! I waited for You all day, but there was no sign of You. When did You visit?" He said, "First I came as a salesman and then as the neighbour's child, but both times, you turned me away without even hearing what I had to say."

The woman realized her mistake and said, "I did not recognize You."

God said, "I am present in everything and everyone."

The Year Ahead

Date	Time	Pooja	Venue
18.01.2020	10 AM to 1 PM	Thai Pongal	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
08.02.2020	10 AM to 1.30 PM	Thaipooam	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
14.03.2020	6.30 PM to 8.30 PM	Monthly Pooja	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
18.04.2020	10 AM to 1 PM	New Year Pooja	Templeton Community Centre
09.05.2020	6.30 PM to 8.30 PM	Monthly Pooja	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
13.06.2020	6.30 PM to 8.30 PM	Monthly Pooja	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
18.07.2020	10 AM to 1 PM	Aadipooram	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
22.08.2020	10 AM to 1 PM	Ganesh Chathurthi	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
12.09.2020	6.30 PM to 8.30 PM	Monthly Pooja	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
17.10.2020	6.30 PM to 8.30 PM	Navarathri Pooja	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
25.10.2020	10 AM to 1 PM	Saraswathi Pooja	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
14.11.2020	6.30 PM to 8.30 PM	Diwali Pooja	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
21.11.2020	5.30 PM to 8.30 PM	Kandhasashti Pooja	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
12.12.2020	6.30 PM to 8.30 PM	Monthly Pooja	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram

The Year that went by



Ganesh Chaturthi pooja was held on September 7, 2019. Over 200 people attended the celebrations that was presided over and graced by the Honourable Mayor of Christchurch Lianne Dalziel and Councilors Anne Galloway and Jimmy Chen.

The Tamil & Malayalam New year was celebrated in the month of April. Over 100 devotees attended the pooja where children also showcased their Bharathanatyam and Kuchupudi dancing skills.



Thaipooam festival was celebrated in the month of February and about 100 devotees participated in the pooja and celebrations. During the pooja a lot of devotees took "Paal Kudam" and 'Kavadi' to fulfil their worship as per the traditions.

Kandha Sashti festival was celebrated on the 18th of November and about 100 devotees participated in the pooja and celebrations. Special abishekam was performed and lord Ganesha was taken around the venue on a palanquin during the pooja.

