



## Proposed Temple Plan



PLAN OF TEMPLE

We have identified a property within Christchurch city where the Temple could be built, and the above plan has been designed accordingly. However, it requires a huge amount of money and effort from every individual from the community to play a part in realising the dream. To that effect, we are leaving no stone unturned in our efforts and confident of your support and the guidance of Lord Sri Ganesha!



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Issue #2 July 2020  
A half-yearly Newsletter



### Editorial

The year 2020 is almost gone and will become part of the collective memory of the people who lived through the challenges it threw at the very beginning itself. The Worldwide Pandemic threw a lot of challenges in peoples' lives and changed the way we went about in our ordinary lives. However, it also gave us the opportunity to look at and do things differently.

While thanking lord Ganesha for keeping us safe in New Zealand, we take this opportunity to thank those frontline champions who kept us all safe. We pray and hope that the ensuing year would bring some respite to the spread & eventually eliminate the virus from the face of the planet.



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

Namaste!

Trust that everyone is safe and strong in these trying times. It appears that the future has been rewritten by recent events that have had devastating effects for the whole world. Life as once we knew it had had new nuances and practices added that we have to endeavour to adjust to.

During the mandatory lockdown, we had conducted poojas over Zoom and offered free legal and financial advice. We also had Thevaram and Bajan classes and distributed food vouchers to the needy. Although we have been operating as a suppositional temple for two years now, we have achieved several enviable milestones. Obviously, the lack of a permanent place for worship and gatherings has led us not to grow at the desired pace thus far.

The management of SGTC endeavours, as a matter of policy and philosophy, to manage the Trust affairs in an exemplary manner, with stringent controls via custodial processes in managing members' funds. We believe that Lord Ganesha has mandated us to build his temple in South Island.

In this regard, we believe that we are privileged to work with the best team of individuals, whose enthusiasm and demeanours and selflessness know no bounds. We are also privileged to have a group of about 40 members/people who are truly inspirational to us with their faith and trust and not forgetting their monetary contributions. As alluded to umpteen times before, the organization has thus far been functioning on funds from a small group and the management team. This mode of financing is doubtless, not sustainable.

We have identified an appropriate property in the vicinity of the city center recently, and our negotiations are well under progress. We envisage that we will make a formal acceptance of the proposal sometime in early April to May 2021. We are also working on other possibilities, and we have an architect's presentation on an ideal temple if we were to build ground up. The catch 22 situation is now posing evident. We have identified an excellent property, but we lack adequate funds to make the securing the property a reality. Through prudent spending have been successful in building up our bank account to a "decent" amount.

We have begun in earnest to raise several possibilities in raising funds.

How you can help:

1. Donate thru the temple website
2. Donate thru Givealittle
3. Deposit directly into our Building fund (Westpac Bank)
4. As a patron, give a lump sum
5. Organize and play a part in our efforts a team. Take ownership
6. Organize an event, like dinner and sell tables or individual tickets to raise funds
7. Other suggestions

Our IRD status allows donators to claim tax exemptions for donations. Tax invoices will be issued for all contributions over \$100.00.

We now require \$575,000 to secure the property and a further \$300,000 to refurbish and develop the adjacent land to enhance the facility to house a community training centre for Yoga and to host cultural and religious discourses. An individual never builds a good temple; In the greater scheme of things, a good temple is built by the community, with everyone contributing what each can afford.

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 Temple, Christchurch Trustees and Committee Members



Left to Right: Naash Kamell (Trustee), Kumaresan (Member), Zac Pregash (Member), Nanda Gopalan (Member), Ross Sivakumaran (Trustee), Chella (Trustee), Gathesh Kanna (Member), Kalai Sathiyathan (Trustee) Sathiya Muralitharan (Trustee), Shubthra Gathesh Kanna (Member)



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**

Our guiding philosophies

To promote and encourage religious experience for the many diverse Hindu congregational factions present in Christchurch. We aspire to be the building block and unifying factor in bringing these diverse communities together.

The temple will promote and undertake activities in the areas of culture, spiritual enrichment, and social activities that have common themes that have universal applicability.

To propagate the spirit of Hinduism to the larger communities and beyond

To conduct daily worship services to Hindu Gods and spiritual masters following traditional Hindu rituals and customs.

To promote a better understanding of the Hindu culture by celebrating popular festivals and by inviting other communities to participate at all such festivals

To conduct religious education classes, study circles, discourses, celebration of Hindu festivals and religious activities, and cultural events.

To engage in various community service activities to serve the needy and elderly as part of religious duty.

To enhance pride in Hindu Religion for present and future generations.

To promote understanding and respect for Hindu philosophy.

To provide facilities for cultural and arts and recreational activities for the Hindu community and encourage members of other communities to participate in such activities. Various discourses and educational classes will be held for adults to enhance their religious understanding and for children; special attention is paid to impart basic knowledge of our religious and cultural values.

The Year Ahead

Date	Time	Pooja	Venue
16/01/21	9:30 AM to 1 PM	Thai Pongal	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
30/01/21	9:30 AM to 1 PM	Thaipooosam	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
13/02/21	6.30 PM to 8.30 PM	Monthly Pooja	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
13/03/21	6.30 PM to 8.30 PM	Maha Shivaratri Pooja	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
17/04/21	9:30 AM to 1 PM	Tamil/New Yera Pooja	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
15/05/21	6.30 PM to 8.30 PM	Monthly Pooja	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
12/06/21	6.30 PM to 8.30 PM	Monthly Pooja	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
10/07/21	10 AM to 1 PM	Monthly Pooja	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
07/08/21	9:30 AM to 1 PM	Aadipooram	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
20/08/21	6.30 PM to 8.30 PM	Varalakshmi Pooja	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
11/09/21	9:30 AM to 1 PM	Shri Ganesh Chaturti Pooja	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
09/10/21	6.30 PM to 8.30 PM	Navarathri Pooja	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
16/10/21	6.30 PM to 8.30 PM	Vijayadasami Pooja	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
13/11/21	9:30 AM to 1 PM	Kandashasti Pooja	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram
11/12/21	6.30 PM to 8.30 PM	Monthly Pooja	Harvard Community Lounge, Wigram

2020 - The Year that went by



Maha Shivarathri Pooja was held on February 21, 2020. Over 100 devotees attended the pooja and received the blessings of Lord Shiva.

Varalakshmi Pooja was held on July 31, 2020. Over 150 people attended the celebrations and received the blessings of Goddess Lakshmi. This is the first time Sri Ganesha Temple organized this pooja, and it was well attended.



During the lockdown during the COVID 19 Pandemic outbreak, Sri Ganesha templ organized monthly pooja via Zoom. The Temple also organized online Yoga and Bhajan sessions through out June and July of 2020.

Navaratri Pooja was held on October 17, 2020. Nine Children aged between 5 and 15 dressed up as Devi Durga, Devi Lakshmi and Devi Saraswathi were the center of the Pooja and blessed the devotees. Pooja was held for these children as per traditions.

