

## Three Refuge Five Precepts

### 1) Do I need to pre-register for the Threefold Refuge and Five Precepts?

- a. Yes, you will need to register to take the Threefold Refuge and Five Precepts. Please register early to facilitate our planning. Please refer to the following table for more details.

	Three Refuge	Five Precepts
<b>New</b>	Participant will be issued with a new 法名	Participant will be issued with a new 法名
<b>Previously Taken in KMSPKS</b>	No registration is required. Participant to provide existing 法名 (普 X)	No registration is required. Participant to provide existing 法名 (普 X).
<b>Previously Taken Elsewhere</b>	Participant will be issued with a new 法名.	Participant to provide existing 法名. Participant is required to retake Three Refuge in KMSPKS if they want a new 法名 from the monastery.

### 2) What is Three Refuge?

- a. When a person wishes to become a Buddhist, the first step he/she takes is to go to the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha for refuge. Since the time of the Buddha, taking this Threefold Refuge has identified a person as a formal member of Buddhist community.

A person takes refuge when he/she fears the suffering of the world and develops confidence in the Triple Gem (*san bao*) which can lead him/her to happiness and Enlightenment. The Buddha, Dharma and Sangha are called the Triple Gem because they represent qualities that are precious like a gem. A Buddhist who wishes to attain Enlightenment regards the Buddha as his/her guide, the Dharma as his/her path and the Sangha as his/her travelling companions. Taking refuge is the first step on the path to Enlightenment.

*To find out more about Threefold Refuge Five Precepts, please attend the Threefold Refuge and Five Precepts Preparatory Class. For more details, please visit [www.kmspks.org](http://www.kmspks.org) or call 6849 5300.*

### 3) What are the Five Precepts?

- a. The Five Precepts are usually expressed in the following form:
- i. To refrain from killing
  - ii. To refrain from taking that which is not given
  - iii. To refrain from sexual misconduct
  - iv. To refrain from telling lies
  - v. To refrain from taking intoxicants

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### 4) What is taught in the Three Refuge and Five Precepts Preparatory Class

- a. The class will help you answer the following questions:
- i. Why should one take Threefold Refuge and Five Precepts?
  - ii. What are the benefits of taking Threefold Refuge and Five Precepts?
  - iii. What are the merits of taking Threefold Refuge and Five Precepts?
  - iv. What are the important points to remember when taking Threefold Refuge and Five Precepts?
  - v. How to keep (observe) to the Precepts?
  - vi. How to integrate the Precepts into our daily life?

**5) Is it compulsory to attend the Three Refuge and Five Precepts Preparatory Class?**

- a. Yes, the Three Refuge and Five Precepts Preparatory Class is compulsory.

**6) Is it compulsory to take both Threefold Refuge and Five Precepts together?**

- a. No, it is not compulsory to take Threefold Refuge and Five Precepts together. You can choose to only take Threefold Refuge or you can just take the Five Precepts if you have already taken Threefold Refuge.

**7) Do I have to take all Five Precepts?**

- a. No, you can choose to take either all or any of the five precepts.

**8) How long does the Threefold Refuge and Five Precepts ceremony take?**

- a. The ceremony takes roughly 2 hours.

**9) What language will the ceremony be conducted in?**

- a. The ceremony will be conducted in Mandarin by the Abbot of Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery, Venerable Sik Kwang Sheng.

**10) Am I required to purchase “Hai Qing” or “Man Yi” robes?**

- a. While it is not necessary, it will be good if you are able to don the robes during the ceremony.

**11) Do I need to become a vegetarian once I take the Three Refuge and Five Precepts?**

- a. No, you do not need to be vegetarian although you are strongly advised to cultivate Buddhist virtue of benevolence, as Buddha teaches us to avoid any action that causes suffering and unhappiness to other. The act of eating meat involves killing of animals that goes against the principle of respect for life.

**12) When and where will the certificate be issued?**

- a. If you have pre-registered for the ceremony, the certificate will be presented to you on the day of the ceremony at the ceremony venue.  
If you have not registered for the ceremony, the certificate will be available for collection 14 days after the ceremony. Please do note that you will have to collect the certificate within 90 days after the ceremony at the Reception Office. For more details, please call 6849 5300.