

Kathina Day

In the Theravada tradition of Buddhism, at the end of the three-month long rainy season retreat, the local community presents monks with new Kathina robes. The date varies according to the rainy season - from country to country, and also within any one country. This festival reminds Buddhists about the importance of generosity and giving.



- ① Sit down with the children and show them the series of pictures overleaf. You may wish to lay the sheets out either on a table or the floor, and then read the story.
- ② Ask the children to look at the pictures. You can ask the following questions and discuss them:-
What can you see in each picture?
Which pictures do you like and why?
What do you understand sharing to mean?
- ③ Talk to the children about occasions when you give presents.
- ④ Talk about when people have been generous to you, and when you have been generous to others.
How do you feel about being generous and sharing your things?

The Story of Kathina



The story begins with a group of monks going to visit the Buddha, when the 'Vassa' or rainy season began. They couldn't travel to see the Buddha, because of the rain, so they had to remain where they were.



The Buddha felt sorry for the monks and sent them some cloth to share amongst them, so they could make some new robes.



A Kathina is a frame on which cloth can be held together to make a bigger piece.



The Buddha taught people that it is very important to give and to share what we have with others.



Today Buddhists remember this festival by giving cloth to the local Buddhist community, to remind them of the Buddha's generosity.