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2023

# DURGA PUJA



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PRABHATI SANGHA**

**20th - 24th**

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# *Durga Puja Greeting & Invitation*

Dear Devotees,

Please accept our sincere obeisances. On behalf of NLPS (North London Prabhati Sangha) we are delighted to give you all a warm invitation to our annual Sharodiya Durga Puja celebration 2023. It is with great enthusiasm and devotion that we prepare to welcome the goddess into our midst once again. This auspicious occasion is not only a religious ceremony but also a time to promote harmony within our community. We cordially invite you, along with your family and friends to join us in celebrating this divine festival with devotion. Your presence will undoubtedly bring lots of exuberance to the Puja. Let us come together to seek the blessings of Maa Durga and create wonderful memories. We look forward to your gracious presence at North London Prabhati Sangha's Durga Puja 2023.

With warm regards,

Chairman Mr Niranta Deb & General Secretary Mr Johar Shil

## **Message of gratitude to our donors**

NLPS would like to cordially thank all our donors within and outside of our community for selflessly donating a substantial amount to our monetary fund which in turn has allowed us to support our spiritual cause - Durga Puja - but also indirectly helping to promote our culture and religion. We really appreciate the generosity of all the donors. We will forever be in debt to their kind gestures and continued paramount support and are extremely grateful for it. May Maa Durga bless them to be blissful in all their activities.

Thank you once again.

Kind regards, NLPS.



# Durga Puja Celebration 2023

*Dear Devotees*

North London Prabhati Sangha (NLPS) cordially invites you to join us with your family and friends in celebrating Durga Puja.

**Friday 20th October 2023**  
Adhibas & Shashti Puja

**MAHA SHASHTI**  
4 pm – 10 pm

**Saturday 21st October 2023**  
Saptami Puja / Gita Paat  
Anjali  
Sandhya Aroti  
Aroti Kirton  
Matri Sangeet

**MAHA SAPTAMI**  
10 am  
1 pm  
6 pm  
7 pm - 8 pm  
8 pm - 10 pm

**Sunday 22nd October 2023**  
Ashtami Puja / Chandi Paat  
Anjali  
Sandhi Puja  
Sandhya Aroti  
Cultural programmes

**MAHA ASHTAMI**  
10 am  
1 pm  
4 pm  
6 pm  
7 pm – 10 pm

**Monday 23rd October 2023**  
Nabami Puja  
Anjali  
Sandhya Aroti  
Cultural Program mes

**MAHA NABAMI**  
9:30 am  
1 pm  
6 pm  
7 pm – 10 pm

**Tuesday 24th October 2023**  
Dashami Puja  
Sindur Pradan & Shanti  
Sindur Khela  
Dhamail

**MAHA DASHAMI**  
12 pm - 1 pm  
2 pm  
3 pm - 4 pm  
4 pm - 6 pm

**Durga Puja will be performed by our priest Sri Tanay K Mukherjee**

\*There will be Cultural Programmes and Activities throughout the week\*

**Program schedule is subject to change**

**Prasadam will be distributed and served after Bhog Aroti and during the evening, after Sandhya Aroti**

Sri Niranta Deb 07789 705 661  
Sri Jahar Shil 07760 391 987  
Sri Susitol Deb 07967 967 855  
Sri Shubash Deb 07956 395 387

## PUJA DONATION DETAILS

Bank Name: **NatWest**  
Account Name: **NLPS Durga Puja**  
Account Number: **24706221**  
Sort Code: **50-30-09**

**KALI PUJA : 12th November 2023** Future Events visit website

# Upcoming Celebration

**Kali Puja**

**Sunday 12th November 2023**

**Saraswati Puja**

**Venue: Chesnut Community Center**

**Wednesday 14th February 2024**

**Dol Purnima**

**Venue: Chesnut Community Center**

**TBC - Visit Website for more details**

**Janmashtami**

**Venue: Chesnut Community Center**

**TBC - Visit Website for more details**

**Venue: Chesnut Community Center**

**For more details  
please visit [www.nlpsuk.org](http://www.nlpsuk.org)**



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# NORTH LONDON PRABHATI SANGHA

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*North London Prabhati Sangha is supported by Trustees. The trustees of the charity are volunteers; they provide the full range of experience and expertise required to add significant value to the work of the charity. They do not receive any remuneration for their roles as trustees.*

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- Sri Gauranga Deb - Joint Secretary
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- Smt Krishna Paul - Women Secretary
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- Sri Susitol Deb - Cultural Secretary **(Trustee)**
- Sri Alok Mukherjee - Fundraising Secretary **(Trustee)**

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| Sri Mitu Deb (Biswajit)                       | Sri Shayon Paul            |
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| Sri Debobratha Deb                            | Sri Sontosh Roy            |



Navaratri in Sanskrit means nine nights. Through these nine nights, people offer prayers and devotion to the Nine Forms of Maa Durga also known as Navadurga. Each form represents a different aspect of Durga which brings about a meaning as to why people worship each one as well as allowing us to apply these representations to our daily lives.

## (1) Goddess Shailaputri – Daughter of Mountain

As we know Goddess Durga is a form of Goddess Parvati, who is the wife of Lord Shiva and mother of Ganesha and Karthikeya. Parvati was born as the daughter of the Himalayas Mountain. Shailaputri is the first manifestation of Durga. She is deemed as the embodiment of patience and devotion since she had to go on a long journey from her father to her husband, Shiva. This teaches us how patience is a virtue and thus showing the importance of applying this to our behaviour.

## (2) Goddess Brahmacharini – Mother of Devotion and Penance

This form symbolises Parvati when she was in deep meditation for Shiva to accept her as his wife. She suffered the torment of nature and extreme weather, but she remained resolute in her devotion for a strict penance of a thousand years. Goddess Brahmacharini can inspire us to remain loyal to our beliefs. In a world of many troubles and demanding situations, we should continue to live our lives without getting disheartened.

## (3) Goddess Chandraghanta – Destroyer of Demons

Goddess Chandraghanta is the fierce 10-armed goddess who rides a tiger to destroy all evil and wicked, hence the name Destroyer of Demons. Although in modern day we are not literally destroying demons, this can be interpreted metaphorically where we destroy our inner evils that drive us to make bad decisions and do wrong doings.

## (4) Goddess Kushmanda – Goddess of The Cosmic Egg

This refers to Durga's role as the creator of the universe. The world is something that was created with great detail and so it should be admired and respected by all. Additionally, this form is presented as the embodiment of happiness and harmony, which we should all strive to have.

## (5) Goddess Skandamata – Goddess of Motherhood and Children

Goddess Skandamata is depicted with her six-headed infant son, Karthikeya on her lap. Her power lies in the strength of a mother's love. She blesses her devotees devoid of selfishness, with the same love and warmth as a mother would with her children. A mother is the most significant figure of attachment from the moment a child is born. Their physical and emotional development is dependent on the bond between them and their mother. Durga is our universal mother. This teaches us the importance of respecting our own mothers or mother figures as we would with Maa Durga as well as taking care of children as parents.

## (6) Goddess Katyayani – Goddess of Power

This form is considered one of Durga's most violent forms who is known to vanquish all evil. She is a form of shakti, meaning power. As the goddess of power, Katyayani teaches us to be bold and powerful. Although we may not have the strength to solve all problems, we should correctly apply what power, no matter how little, we have in order to make changes.

## (7) Goddess Kalaratri – Goddess of Auspiciousness and Courage

Goddess Kalaratri represents the darkness and light that we experience throughout life. She teaches us that we should not get discouraged when going through rough times. Instead, we should be courageous and fearless so that we can fight the obstacles that prevent us from succeeding in life. Rather we should be learning from these moments, so we know what to do for next time.

## (8) Goddess of Mahagauri – Goddess of Beauty and Women

Maa Durga in general is a beautiful representation of feminine power. Mahagauri shows us that women can be powerful, strong, and courageous which are usually biased as masculine traits in modern society. Moreover, Mahagauri teaches us the importance of inner beauty in addition to outer beauty. Being an all-around good person with morals allows us to create meaningful bonds and long-lasting relationships. Of course, it is still perfectly acceptable to care about how you look for your own personal comfort, but a balance should be made between the two.

## (9) Goddess Siddhidhatri – Goddess of Supernatural Powers

Siddhidhatri is one of Maa Durga's most divine forms. She represents pure perfection through her supernatural abilities. Although, we do not have these as human beings, we can strive to improve ourselves even if we cannot reach perfection. The effort is what counts. She also teaches us the importance of increasing knowledge, which is something we do all throughout our lives from birth. We should therefore value acquiring knowledge.





# Maa'r Aashirbad

Amidst the incense's fragrant days,  
Durga Puja has an enchanting phase,  
The Goddess is riding a lion's might,  
That shows a symbol of strength in every fight.

Her ten arms are a cosmic dance, which  
Wonders through the existence's glance,  
Each limb is a lesson to be learned,  
So that in life's mystery, her wisdom is earned.

As idols are crafted, devotion roars,  
In hearts, there's a bond which lovingly soars,  
Yet deeper are truths when rituals appeal,  
A philosophy so vast, it seems surreal.

In Mahishasura's demonic cry,  
Is a call to conquer our ego's lie,  
The demon is slain within his soul,  
To harmonize and make our community whole.

Navaratri's nights are a sacred quest,  
To find divinity within our chest,  
It's a chance recognize the goddess's hue,  
As she is residing in me, residing in you.

Durga Puja's grace is a path to tread,  
Where vedic rituals meet a musical thread,  
Philosophy is shared along with a dance,  
Where dhak dhols play, it finds its stance

*By Krishna Shil*



Durga Maa!!!  
Durga puja!!!  
By Harbhans Deb



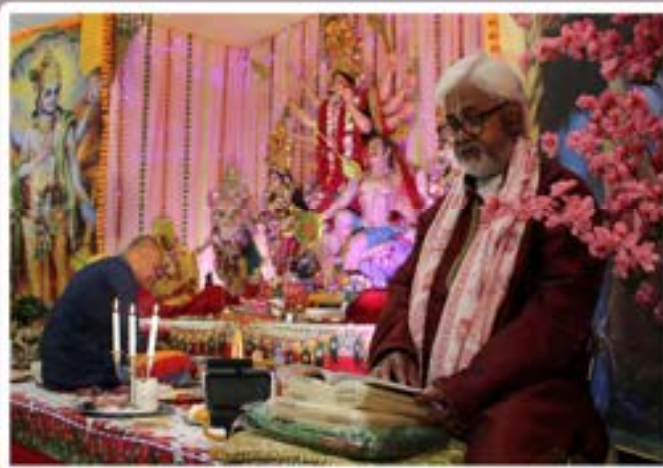
By: Krishna Shil

# Glimpse of Durga



Please visit [nlpsuk.org](http://nlpsuk.org) for more pictures

# Puja 2022



According to Hindu scriptures, Lord Narayan is believed to manifest in ten avatars, each representing a stage in the evolutionary process within the Animal Kingdom. These avatars serve as a metaphorical depiction of evolution in Hinduism. Let us delve into each of these avatars and explore how they symbolize the concept of evolution through Narayan's manifestations.

**Matsya (Fish):** Fish are the earliest life forms found in water, marking the beginning of the evolutionary chain.

**Kurma (Tortoise):** Tortoises can dwell in both water and land, signifying the transition from water-based existence to land-based living.

**Varaha (Boar):** Boars inhabit land, representing the shift from water-dependent to fully terrestrial creatures.

**Narasimha (Half-lion and half-human):** While not suggesting a literal half-lion, half-human creature, Narasimha exemplifies the transition from animal-like beings to human-like forms. This avatar possibly symbolizes the evolutionary progression from ape-like ancestors to modern humans.

**Vamana (Dwarf):** Vamana, portrayed as a short human, likely represents the Neanderthals, early human-like creatures. Fossil evidence suggests that Neanderthals were shorter in stature. Vamana also embodies the struggle against barbaric tendencies.

**Parashurama (Woodland Human):** Parashurama depicts the era when humans resided in forests and grasslands. This signifies the emergence of Homo sapiens as predators in the world, marking a significant evolutionary advancement.

**Rama (Cultured Human):** Rama symbolizes the embodiment of culture and morality. He is revered as one of the most virtuous characters in Hinduism. Rama's narrative highlights numerous moral values, such as his unwavering commitment to his wife Sita, who was held captive by Ravana for years. His exemplary rule as a king brings about peace and prosperity.

**Krishna (Loving Human):** Krishna, widely celebrated in Hinduism, represents love and beauty. Raised as a village boy, his charm and playfulness endeared him to all. His legendary love story with Radha is renowned as one of the most beautiful tales of affection.

**Buddha (Peaceful Human):** Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, epitomizes peace. Amidst widespread suffering, poverty, and death, Buddha arose to impart teachings that emphasized meditation, vegetarianism, and non-violence, aligning with certain principles of Hinduism. He aimed to bring about inner peace and alleviate suffering.

**Kalki (Destroyer Human):** Kalki is believed to be the destroyer of the world, initiating the next cycle of the Universe. This avatar is yet to occur and is prophesied to appear at the end of the current cycle, known as the Kali Yuga, which is characterized by sin and conflict.

In Hinduism, the ten avatars of Lord Narayan serve as a powerful metaphorical representation of the evolutionary process, illustrating the progression from water-dwelling organisms to complex human civilizations. Each avatar holds significance, reflecting different stages of development and embodying various virtues and ideals valued in Hindu culture.





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# Happy Durga Puja

## From NLPS



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Magazine Designed by Shubash Deb & Sanjeeb Deb

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